

KING OF BANDITS

王ドロボウJING



YUICHI KUMAKURA

All that glitters...

Even the stars

All things precious...

Even your life



The King of Bandits

Can steal it all

In the blink of an eye



*a girl with a tattooed heart
in
pompiers*

王下ロボウ
J I N G
新 装 版
S E V E N



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Jing: King of Bandits Vol. 7

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王様将校 KING OF BANDITS JING

VOLUME 7 OF 7

STORY AND ART BY
YUICHI KUMAKURA



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Once upon a midnight dreary, a thief named Jing was weak and weary.
Many strange and forgotten lands he did traverse and explore.
His companion was a bird named Kir, his black wings a-flapping.
While Jing nodded, nearly napping, Kir saw booty galore.
"Wake up, Jing," Kir muttered, "all around us is loot galore."
Treasure from ceiling to floor!

Thus, this ebony bird's willing, sent Jing's sad face into smiling,
For Jing could steal the stars from the sky, thievery he truly did adore.
The albatross sat proudly on Jing's placid bust, his beady eyes did implore,
One more thing Kir did utter, his feathers all a greedy flutter, his voice a roar,
Quoth the albatross, "Let's steal some more!"





JING: KING OF BANDITS

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merry X'mas !!



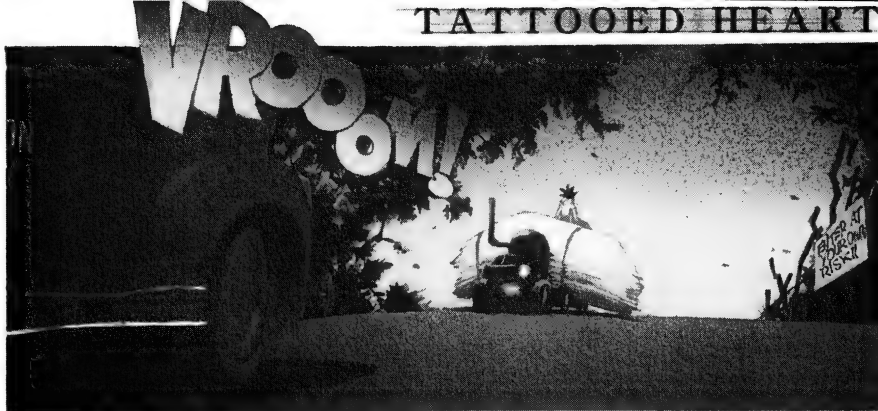
let's have a break !!



*he could've been
like this !!*

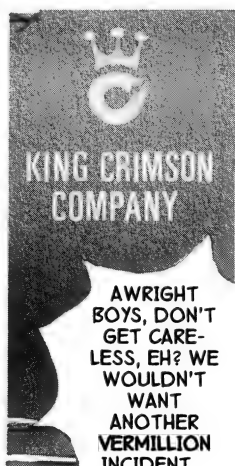
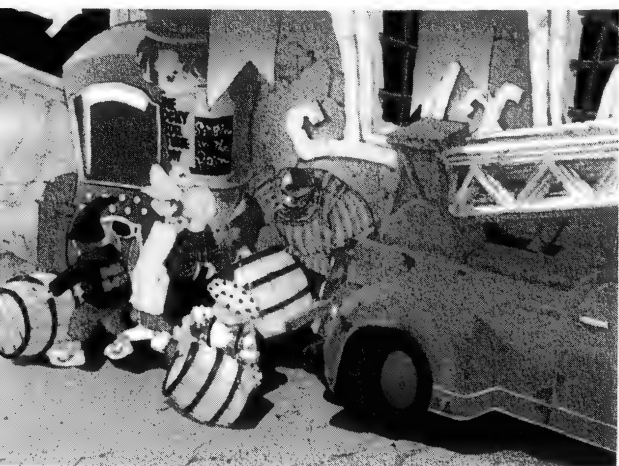
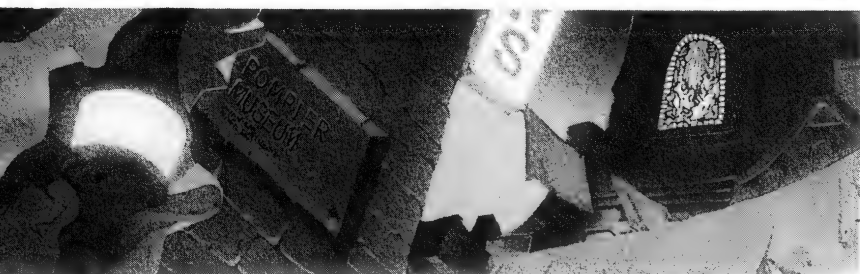
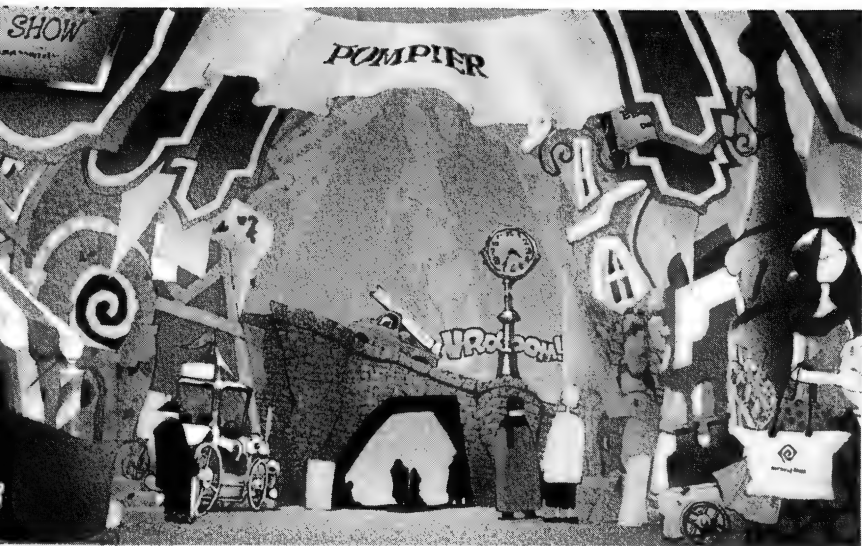


jing before jing



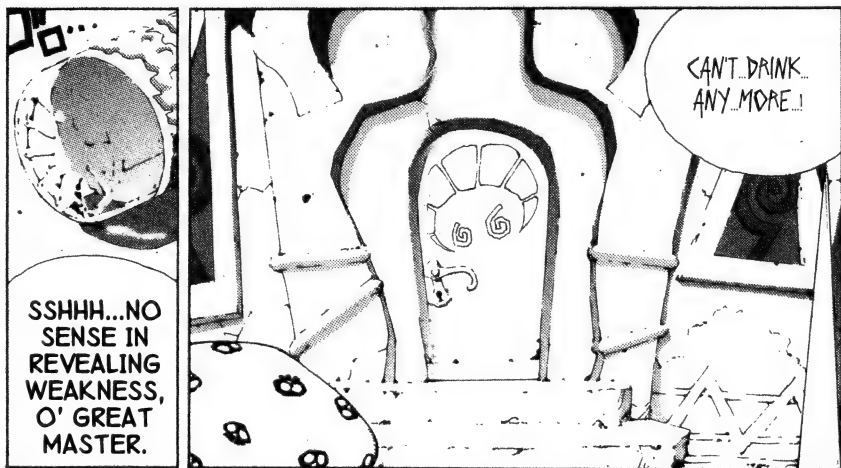
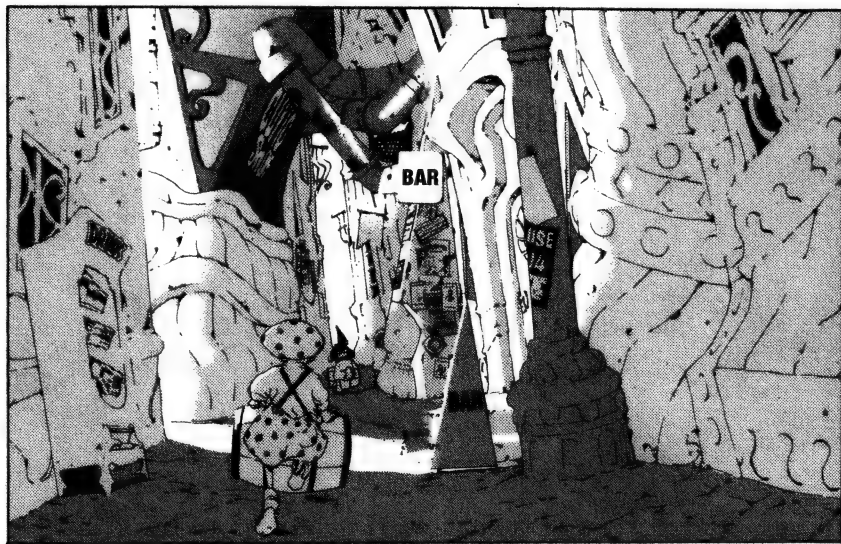
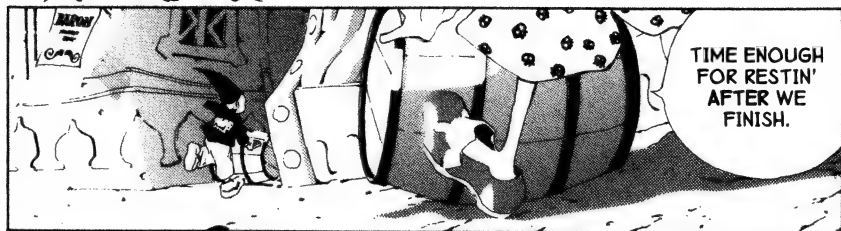
**...THE CITY
OF COLORS!!**

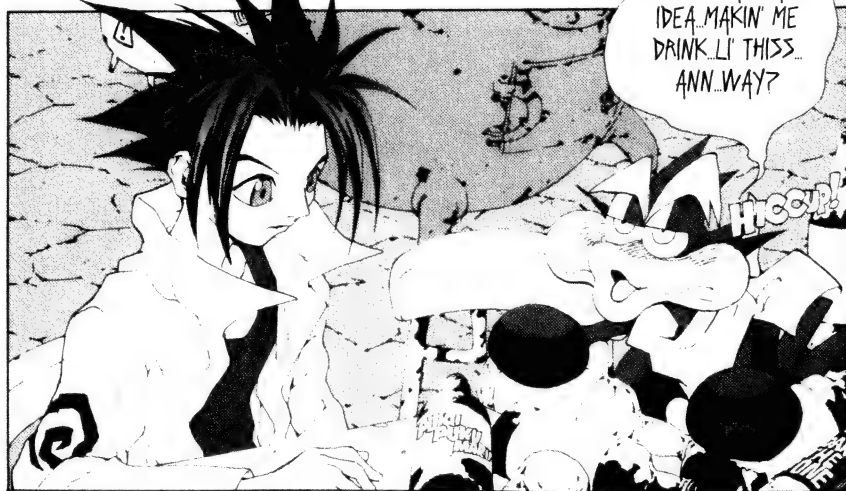
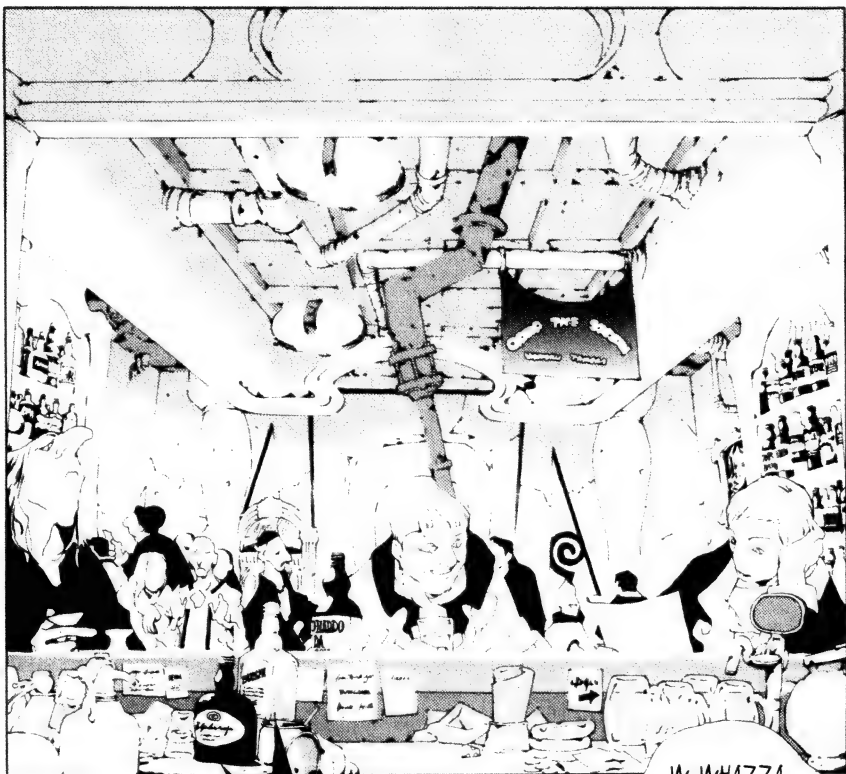




**KING CRIMSON
COMPANY**

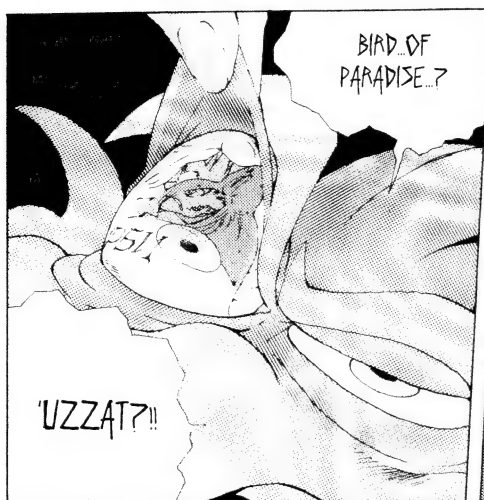
**AWRIGHT
BOYS, DON'T
GET CARE-
LESS, EH? WE
WOULDN'T
WANT
ANOTHER
VERMILLION
INCIDENT...**







IT'S
JUST LIKE
THEY SAID!
POMPIER'S
GOT A DRINK
FOR EVERY
CONCEIVABLE
COLOR!!

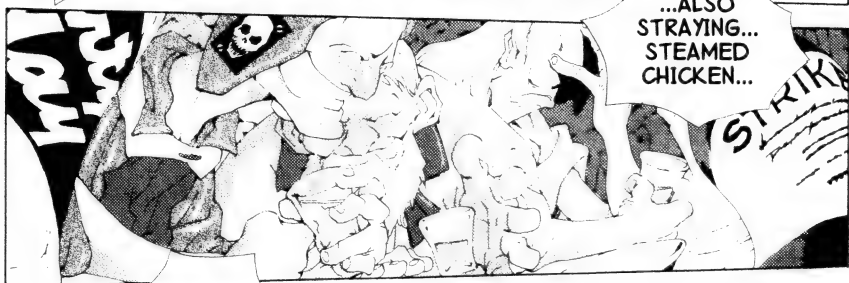




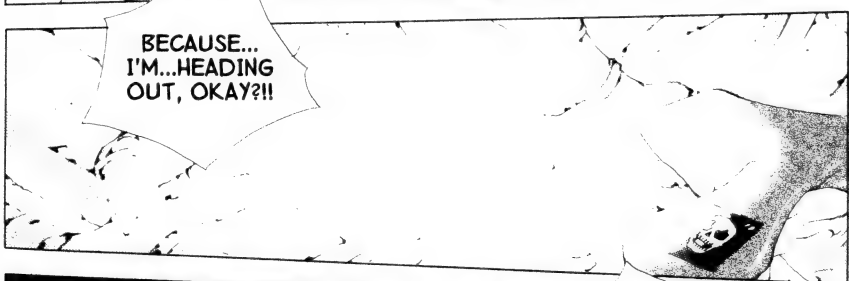
...AND THE
MANSION...
AUCTION...
ONLY TWI...



WELL, DON'T
BLAME ME IF
YOU HAVE A
SLOW MEMORY.
NOW, WHAT DID
WE DISCUSS?
FIRST...THE
KITCHEN...



...ALSO
STRAYING...
STEAMED
CHICKEN...



BECAUSE...
I'M...HEADING
OUT, OKAY?!!



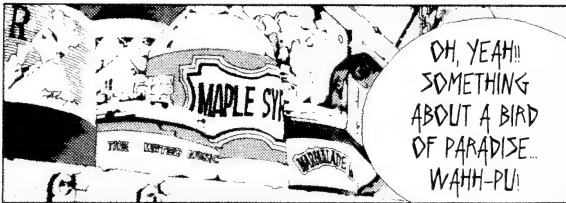
I'M...
COUNTING
ON YOU,
KIR!!



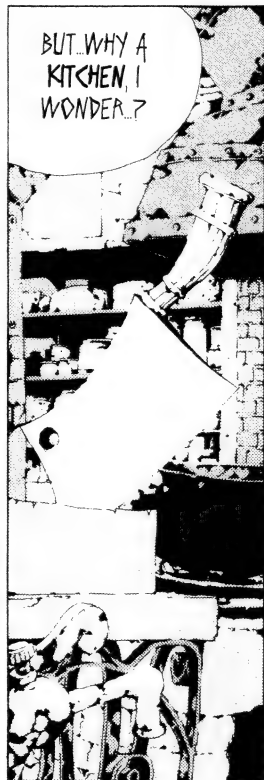
WHERE AM I? OH,
THAT'S RIGHT...JING
SAID SOMETHING
ABOUT A KITCHEN...



UHN?



OH, YEAH!!
SOMETHING
ABOUT A BIRD
OF PARADISE...
WAHH-PU!



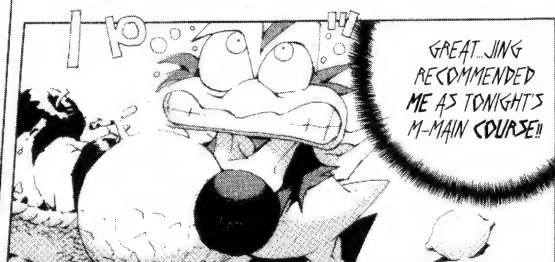
BUT...WHY A
KITCHEN, I
WONDER..?



UGH, THESE
FELLOWS KINDA
LOOK LIKE THEY'VE
BEEN TO PARADISE
AND BACK
THEMSELVES...



WAIT...AN
AUCTION. YEAH.
IT'S AROUND HERE
SOMEWHERE!!



HUFF...
HUFF...!!

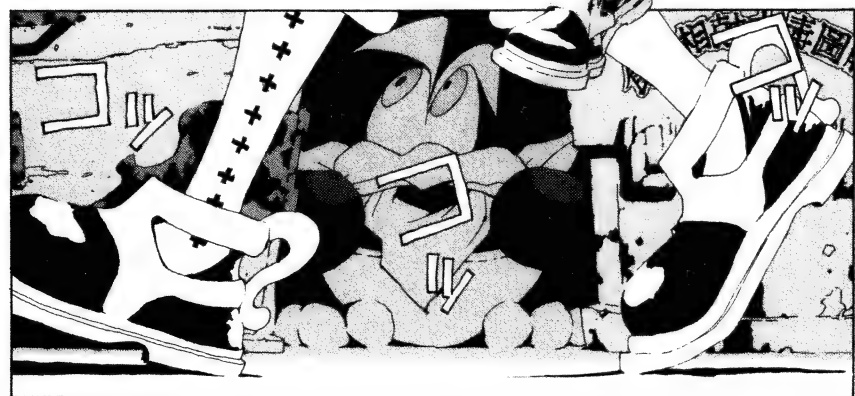
NNNNNN!!
THAT
BASTARD!!!

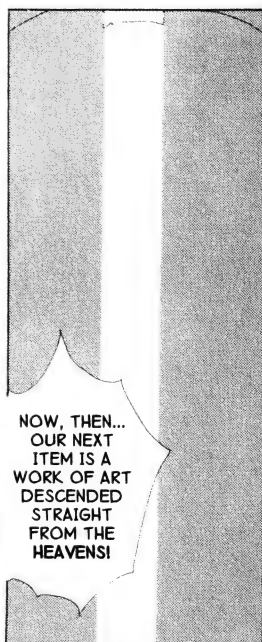
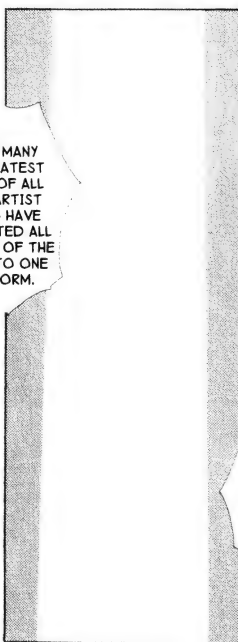
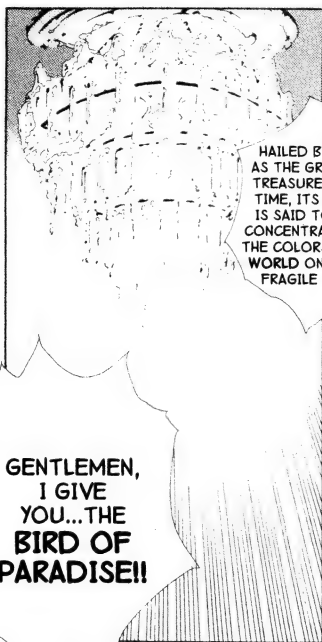
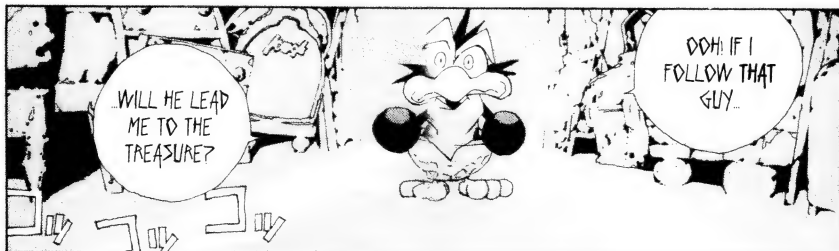
JING!

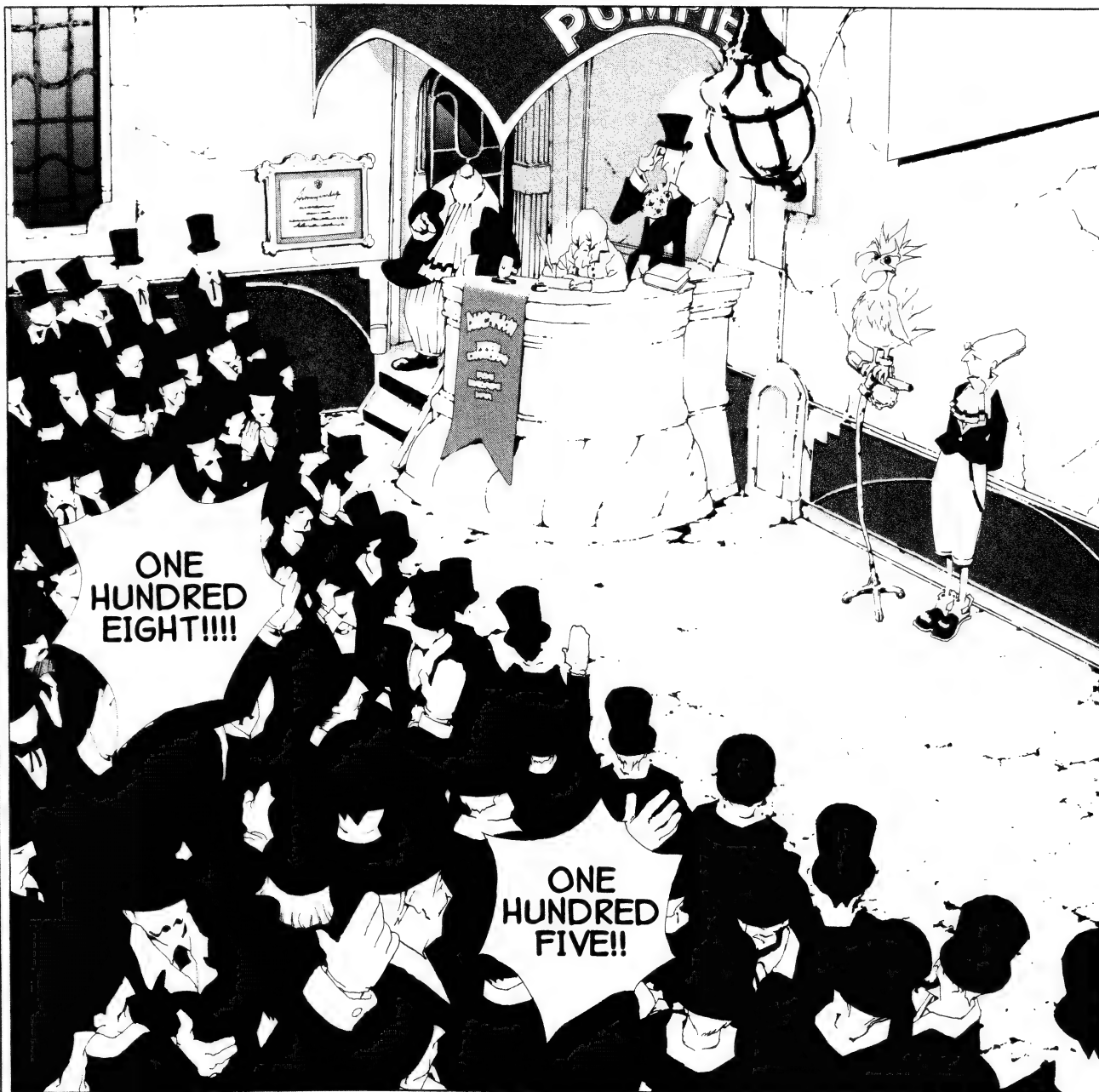
AND THAT AIN'T ALL!
THAT LITTLE TWERP'S
GONNA RUE THE DAY HE
EVER CROSSED MR. SOON
AS I FINISH THIS JOB.
IT AIN'T EASY BEIN'
A PRO.

U
O
O
O
O
H
!!!!

WHEN I GET MY HANDS
ON THAT PUNK, I'M GONNA
SMACK HIM SO HARD HE
WON'T KNOW WHETHER
HE'S COMIN' OR GOIN'!!!









ONE THOUSAND
FIVE HUNDRED...
GOING ONCE...
TWICE...



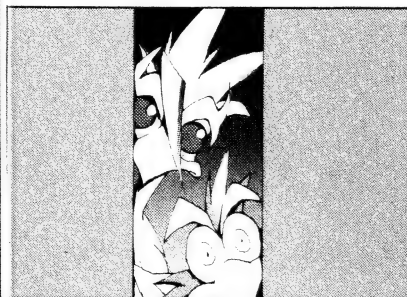
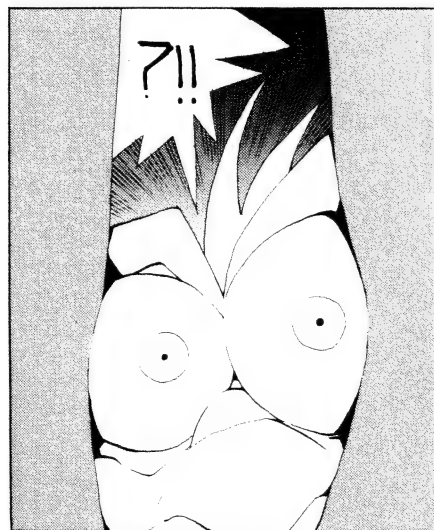
ONE
THOUSAND
FIVE
HUNDRED!!!

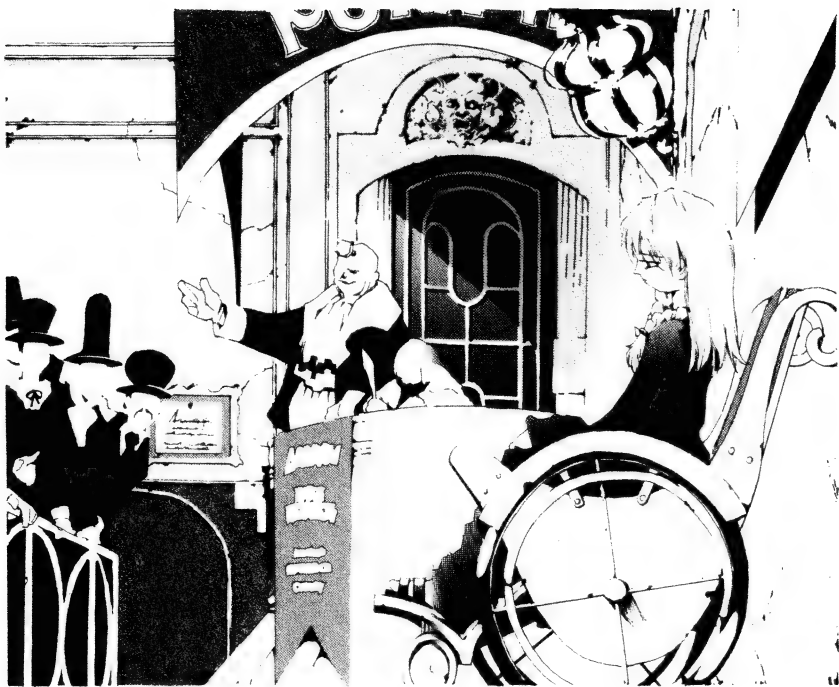


SOLD TO MONSIEUR
DRAMBUITE, FOR
THE CLOSING BID
OF ONE THOUSAND
FIVE HUNDRED IN
GOLD!!



I'LL CLOSE
THIS BID.







**TCHI SO, YOU
REALLY ARE
CURSED!**

*I thought you
looked like
interior goods!*

**WH-
WHAT IS
THAT?!!**

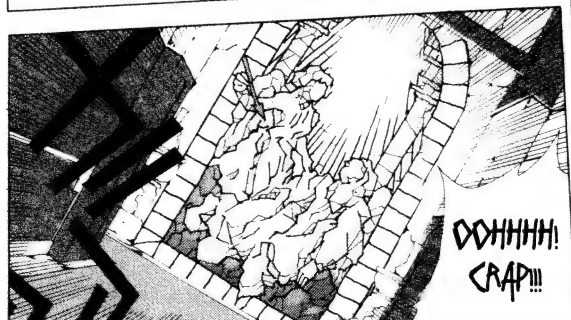
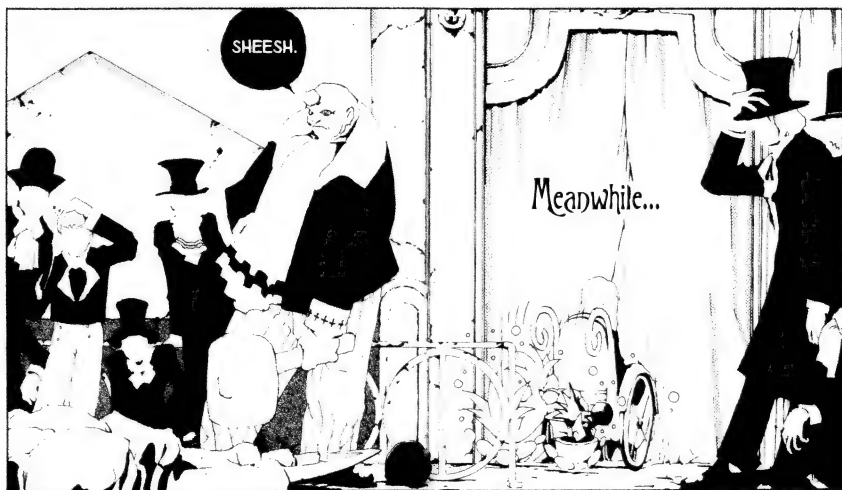
WAAAAAH!!!

DAM

**HEY,
THIS
AIN'T A
GHOST!!**

**REST
IN
PEACE!**

**GT
AS
FAH**

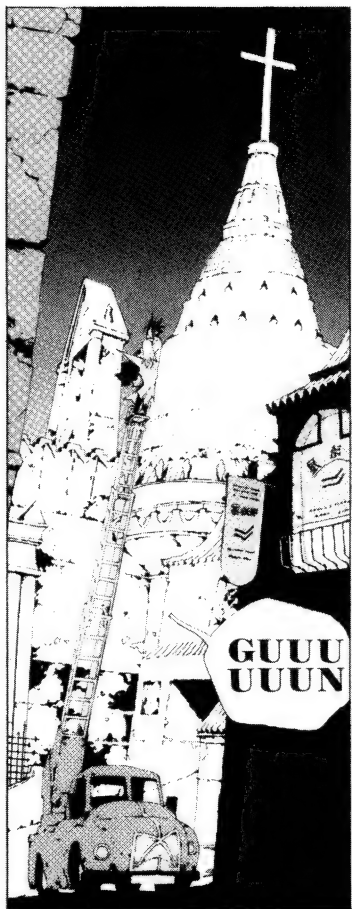


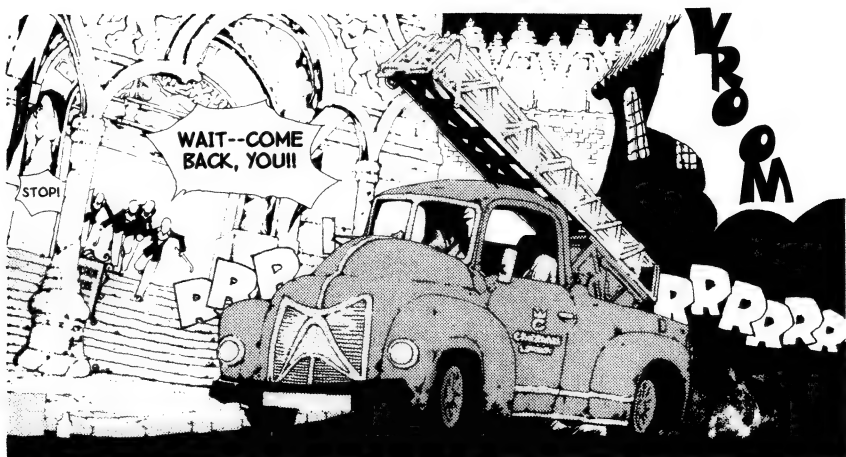


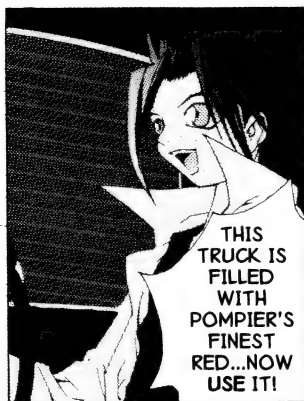


OH!

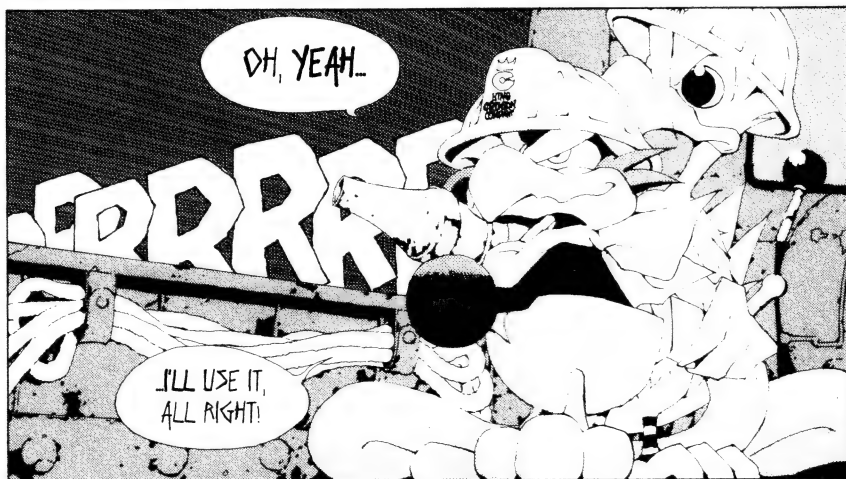




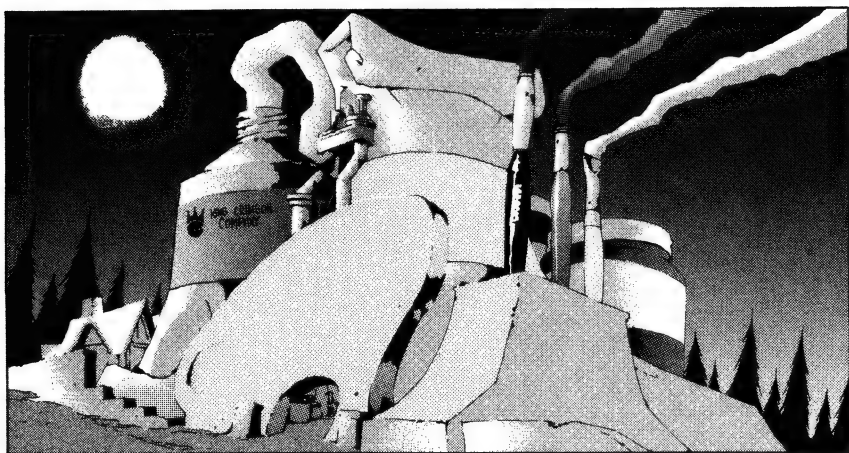
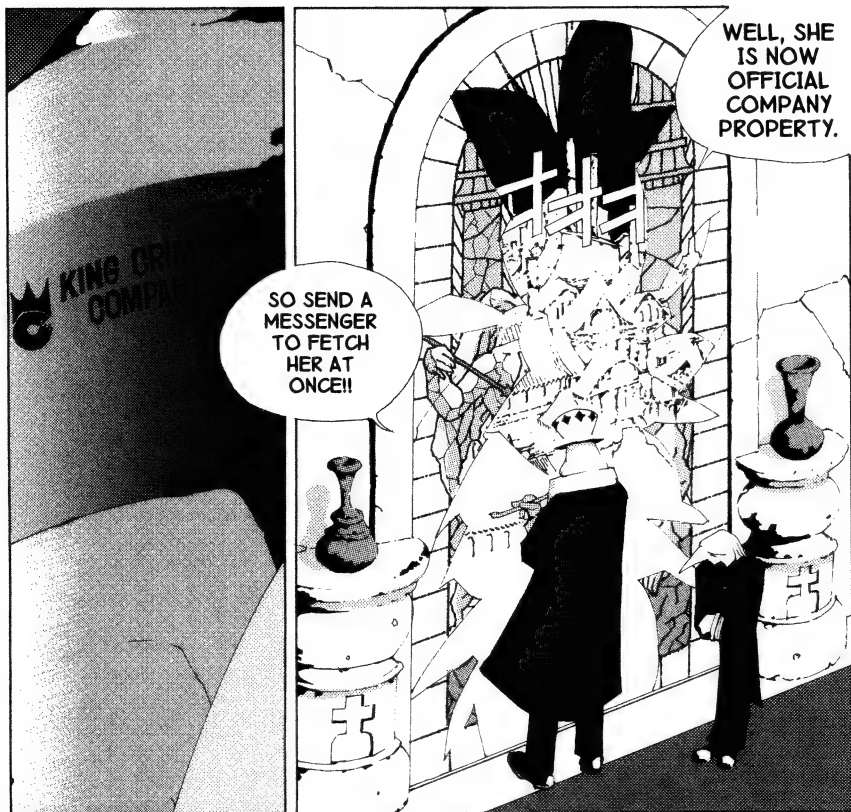


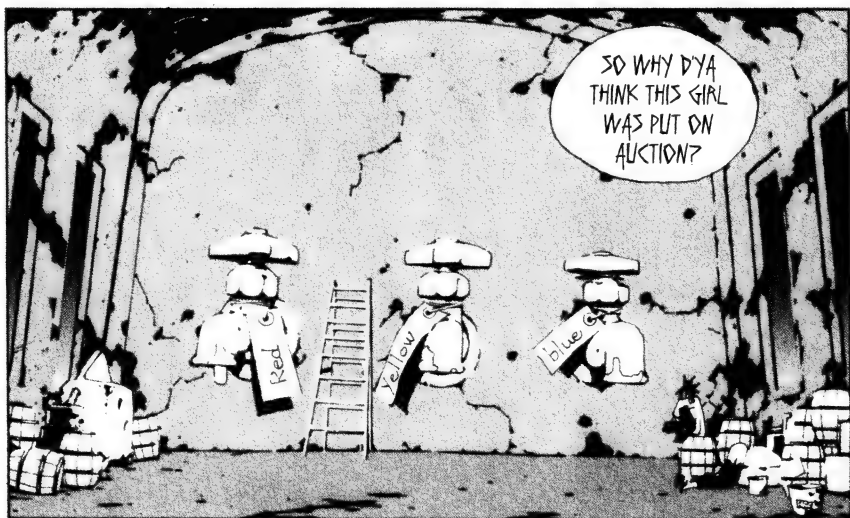


BINGO!!
THIS IS A
PAINTING
TRUCK,
KIR!!!



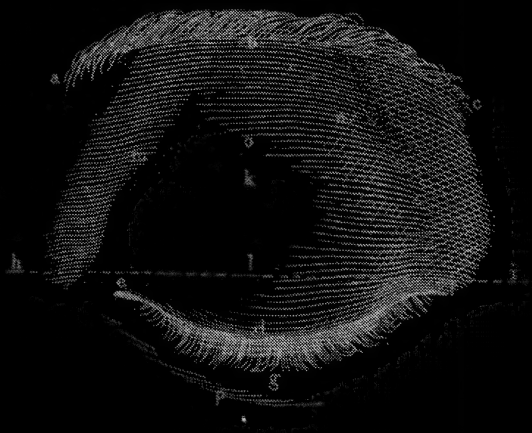












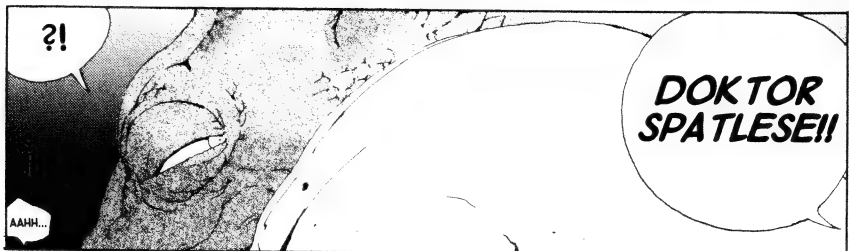
If perchance I were to ask
The one almighty perfect God,
I am sure I'd be rewarded
With a simple "It is so..."
But for me, in all my tears
It is not beauty, but its extracts
That defeat my wounded, rebel eyes.
For within such nuance,
All colors live
In brilliant harmony...



...Then again,
It could all be colorless
For all I know.

(From the epitaph series,
"The Analepts of Vin Quart")







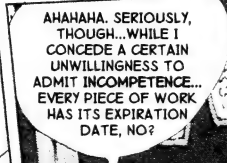
IF I MAY SAY SO,
DRAMBUIE, YOUR
MERCHANDISE
SUPERVISION HAS
BECOME QUITE
INCOMPETENT.



WOULD YOU
DO ME THE
HONOR OF A
HOUSE CALL?



AT LEAST THIS
WORN-DOWN
MOLAR WON'T BE
YOUR PROBLEM
FOR LONG.

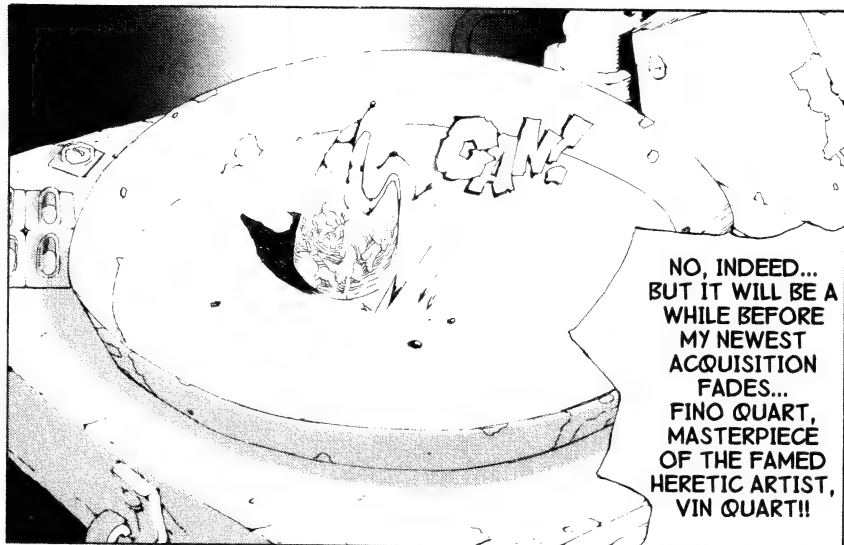


AHAAHA. SERIOUSLY,
THOUGH...WHILE I
CONCEDE A CERTAIN
UNWILLINGNESS TO
ADMIT INCOMPETENCE...
EVERY PIECE OF WORK
HAS ITS EXPIRATION
DATE, NO?



SOME MIGHT CALL
IT THAT, DOKTOR.
I MYSELF PREFER
THE TERM
"CAPTIVATING."

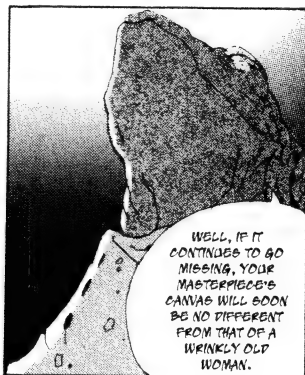
BOKA!



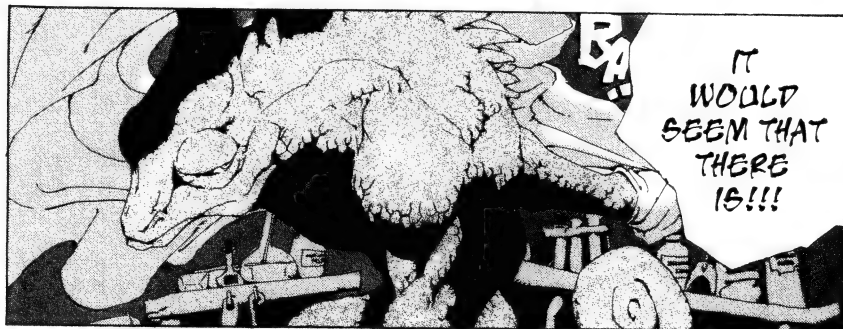
NO, INDEED...
BUT IT WILL BE A
WHILE BEFORE
MY NEWEST
ACQUISITION
FADES...
FINO QUART,
MASTERPIECE
OF THE FAMED
HERETIC ARTIST,
VIN QUART!!



MY OPERATIVES
ARE LOCATING
HELP WITHIN
THE CITY AS WE
SPEAK...THERE'S
NO NEED FOR
CONCERN.



WELL, IF IT
CONTINUES TO GO
MISSING, YOUR
MASTERPIECE'S
CANVAS WILL SOON
BE NO DIFFERENT
FROM THAT OF A
WRINKLY OLD
WOMAN.



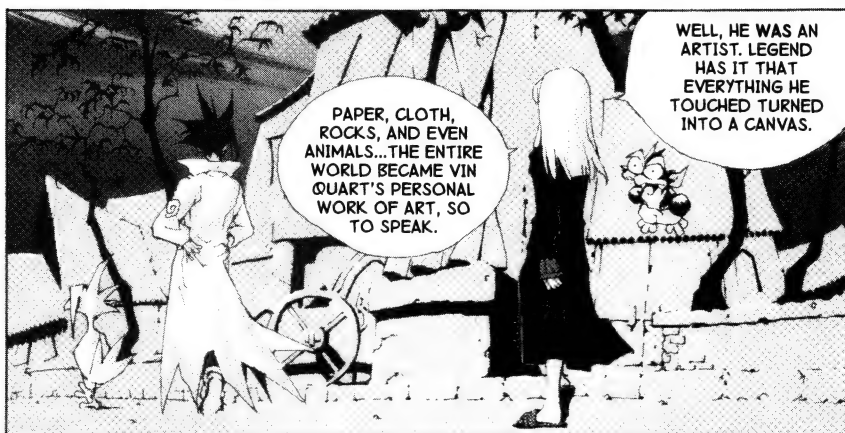
IT
WOULD
SEEM THAT
THERE
IS!!!

THEN...THIS
PAINTING ON
YOUR BODY...
IS YOUR
FATHER'S?!!



PAPER, CLOTH,
ROCKS, AND EVEN
ANIMALS...THE ENTIRE
WORLD BECAME VIN
QUART'S PERSONAL
WORK OF ART, SO
TO SPEAK.

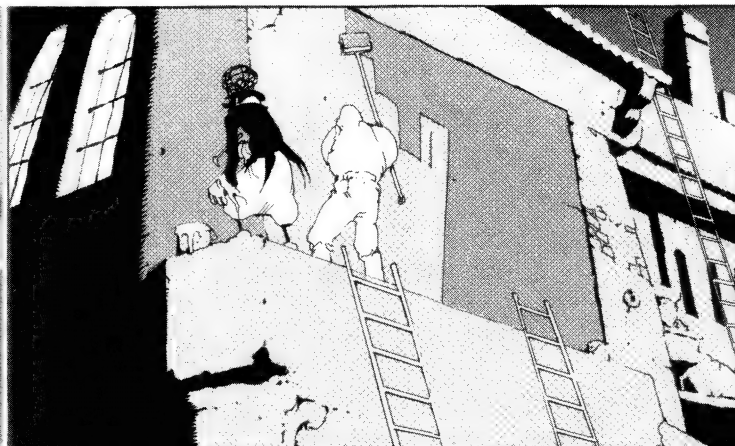
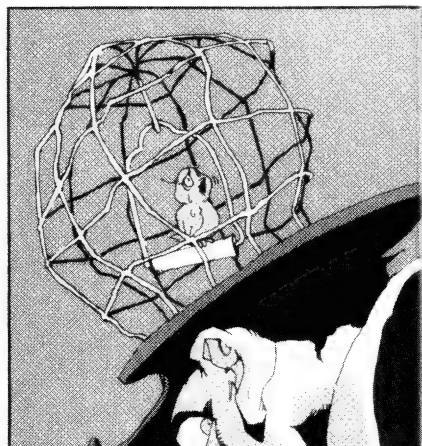
WELL, HE WAS AN
ARTIST. LEGEND
HAS IT THAT
EVERYTHING HE
TOUCHED TURNED
INTO A CANVAS.

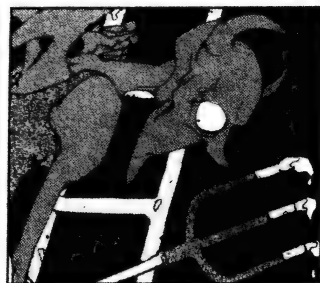
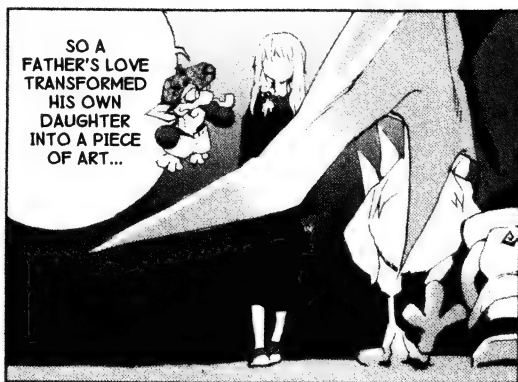


AND EVENTUALLY...
I, TOO, BECAME
ONE OF HIS...
WORKS.

W-WAIT
JUST A
MINUTE!
THIS
PLACE--









K-KIR...
WAIT A
MINUTE...!

NOPE...
GUESS
NOT.



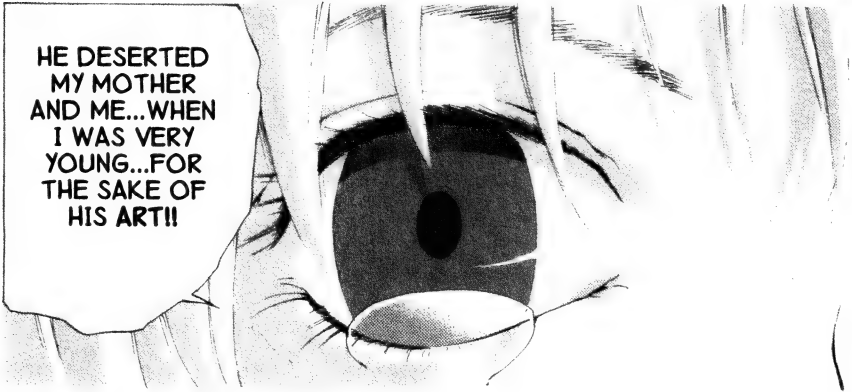
I EXPECT YOUR
FATHER WOULD
FIND SOMETHING
TO ADMIRE IN MY
MATCHLESS BEAUTY,
TOO, FINE!!



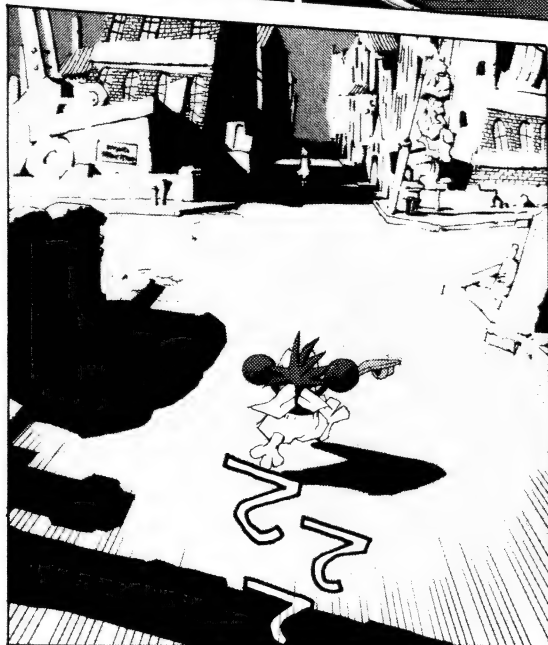
COME NOW!
INTRODUCE ME TO
THIS FATHER OF
YOURS...AS YOUR
FIANCE!!

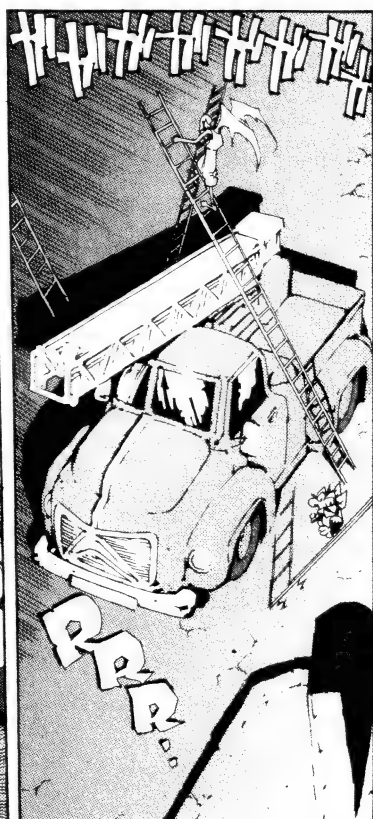
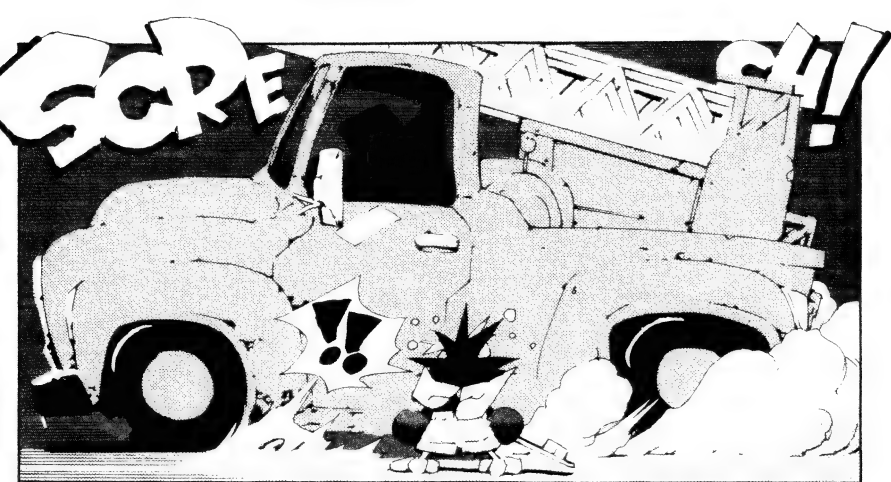


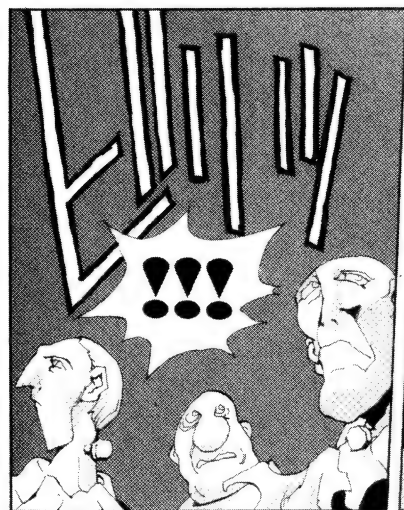
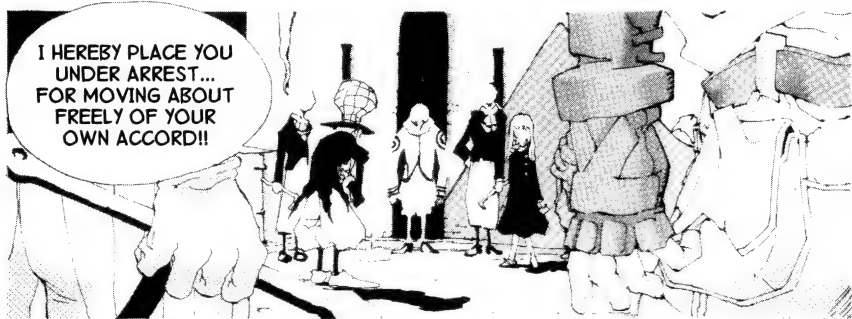
**MY
FATHER
DESERTED
ME!!!**

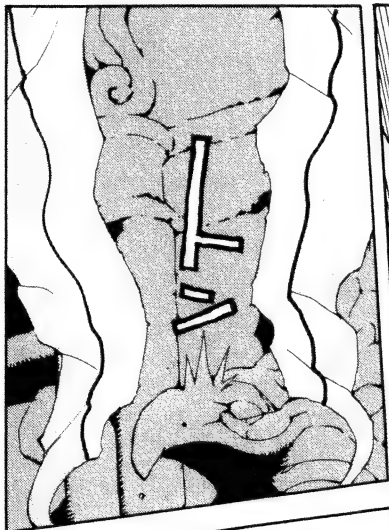


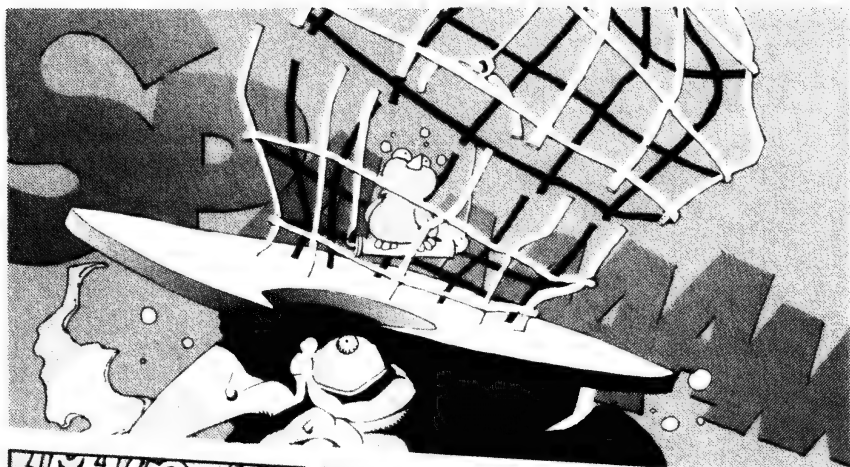
**HE DESERTED
MY MOTHER
AND ME...WHEN
I WAS VERY
YOUNG...FOR
THE SAKE OF
HIS ART!!**









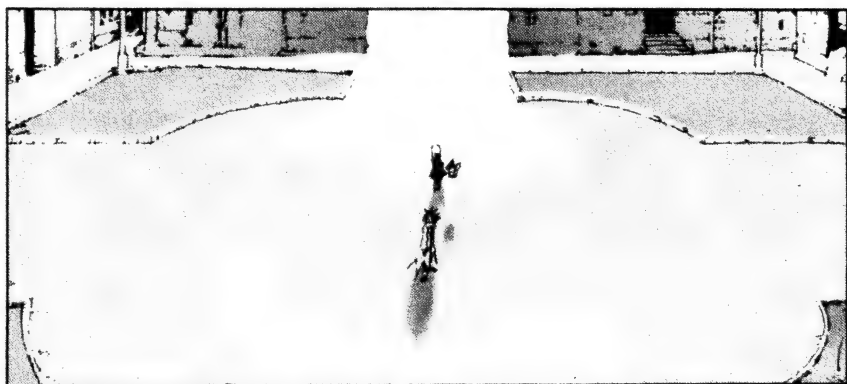
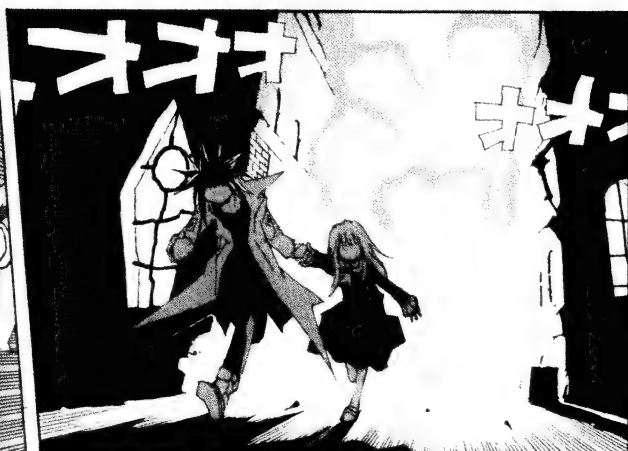


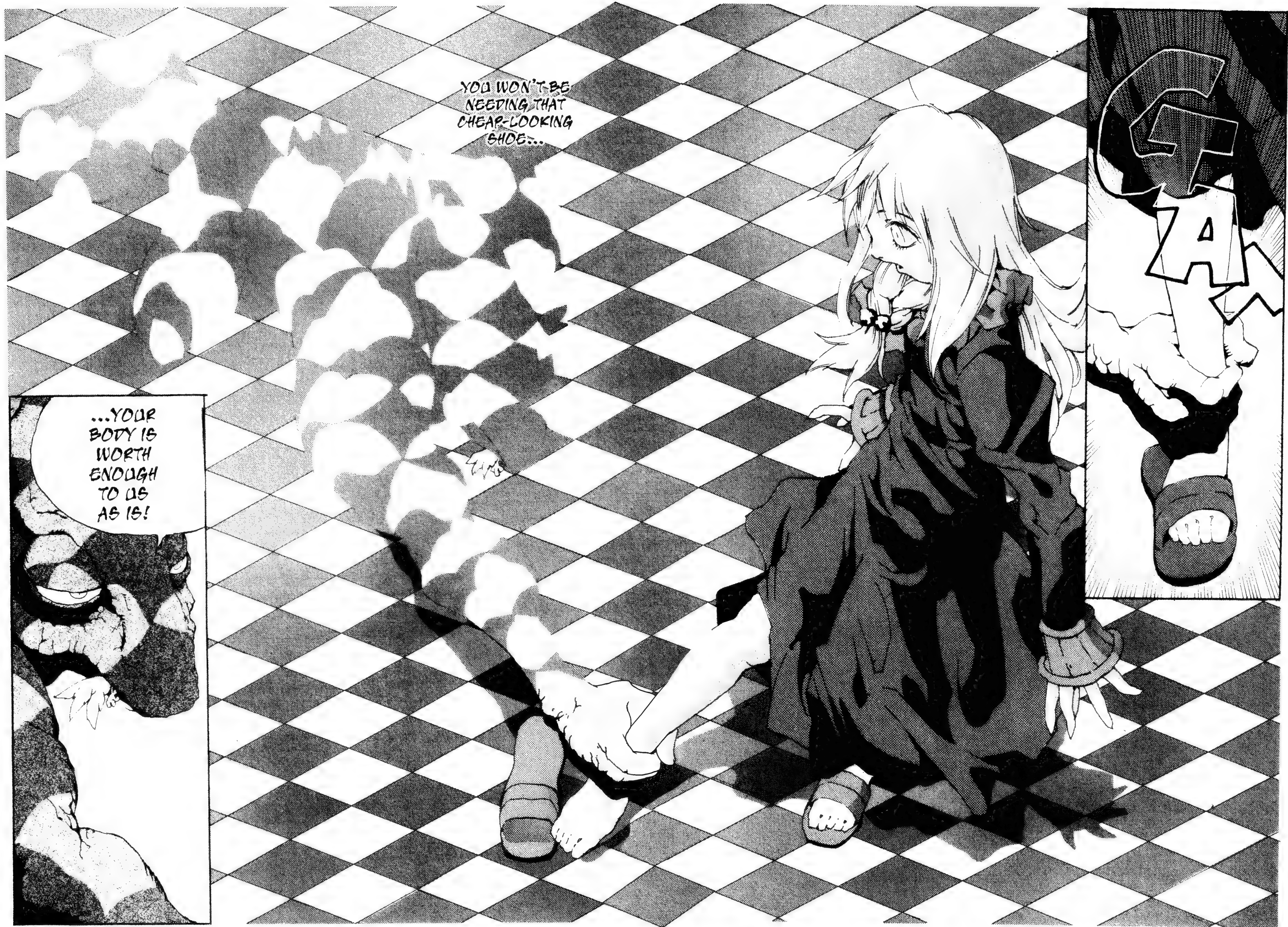
**KIIIIIR
ROYALE!!!**



**C'MON,
FINO!!**



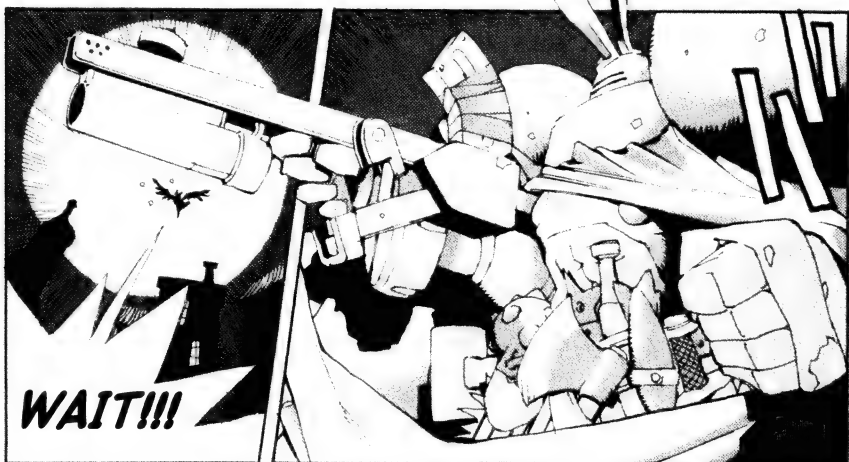
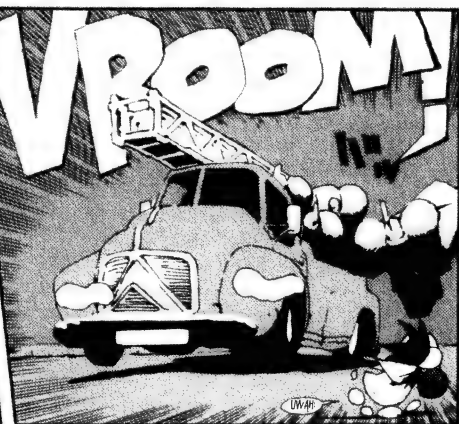


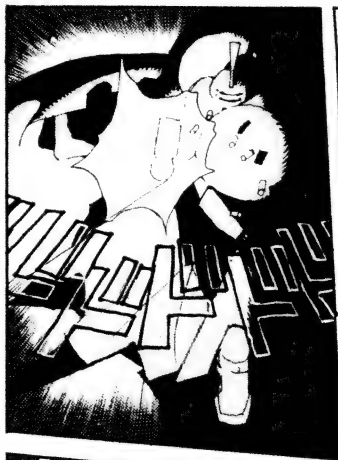


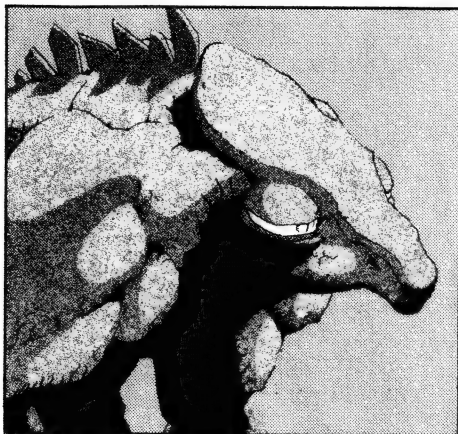
YOU WON'T BE
NEEDING THAT
CHEAP-LOOKING
SHOE...

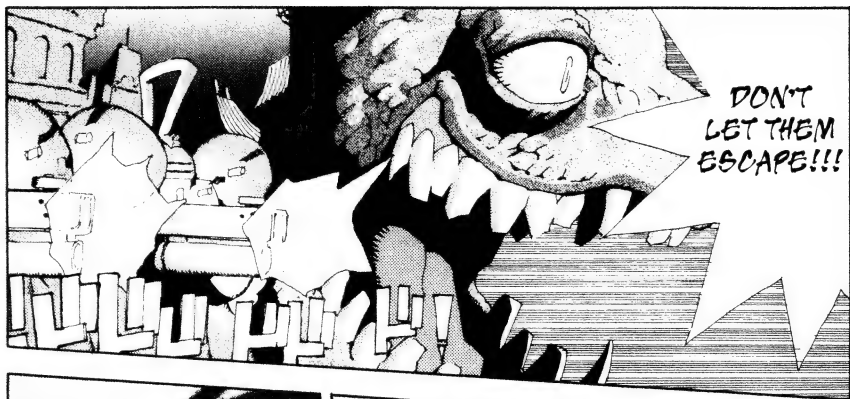
...YOUR
BODY IS
WORTH
ENOUGH
TO US
AS IS!

GA











HA HA
HA HA
HA HA!

**TOO NAUGHTY
TO LIVE**



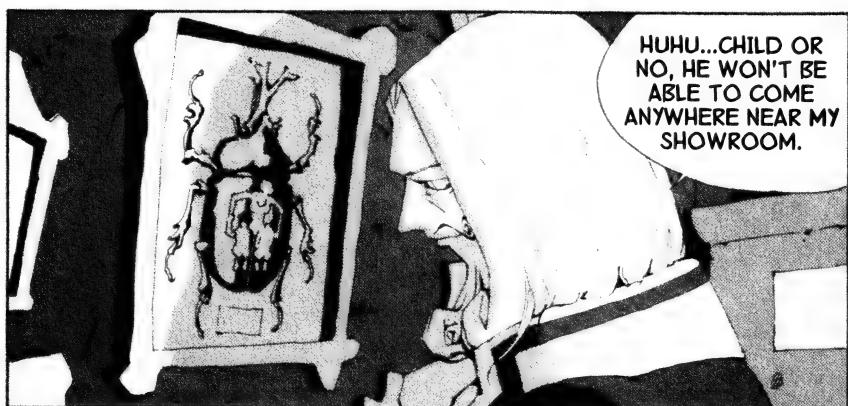
"TOO NAUGHTY
TO LIVE!!"
A JOLLY GOOD
HEADLINE IF
I'VE EVER READ
ONE.



AS WELL AS
ANY WORKING
AGAINST
A BADLY-
BEHAVED
CHILD.



MY KING CRIMSON
EMPLOYEES DO
HANDLE THINGS
MOST EFFICIENTLY,
WOULDN'T YOU
SAY?



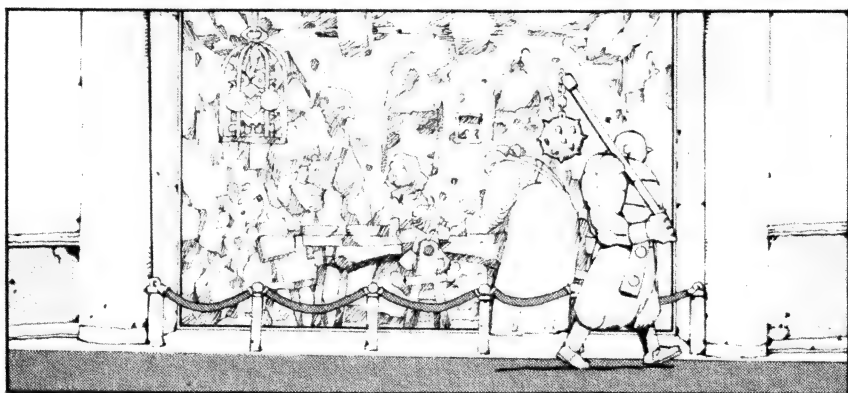
HUHU...CHILD OR
NO, HE WON'T BE
ABLE TO COME
ANYWHERE NEAR MY
SHOWROOM.



HAHAHAHAH
HAHAHAHAH-
HAHAHAHAH
AHANA!



MUCH LESS THE
DOORMAT OF
THIS MANSION...
HAHAHAHA.









LE CHEF-
D'OEUVRE
INCONNU?!!



IN THE
WORLD...



IF YOU DON'T EVEN
KNOW WHAT IT
LOOKS LIKE, HOW
DO YOU KNOW IT'S A
MASTERPIECE?!



TRUE...WHILE IT IS
WIDELY ACCEPTED
AS MASTER ARTIST
QUART'S VISIONARY
MASTERPIECE, NO ONE
HAS ACTUALLY SEEN
THE GENUINE ARTICLE.



THE WORK IS
SAID TO LIE
UNFINISHED IN
MASTER ARTIST
QUART'S VILLA
SOMEWHERE IN
THIS COUNTRY...



...THIS PIECE IS
SUPPOSED TO
CONTAIN ALL THE
COLORS IN THE
WORLD, RIGHT?!!!



WHADDAYA
SAY? YOU
AND ME!!
WE'LL STEAL
IT NO MATTER
WHAT!!



H-HEY...THIS
SOUNDS LIKE A
TREASURE TO ME,
JING!!!!

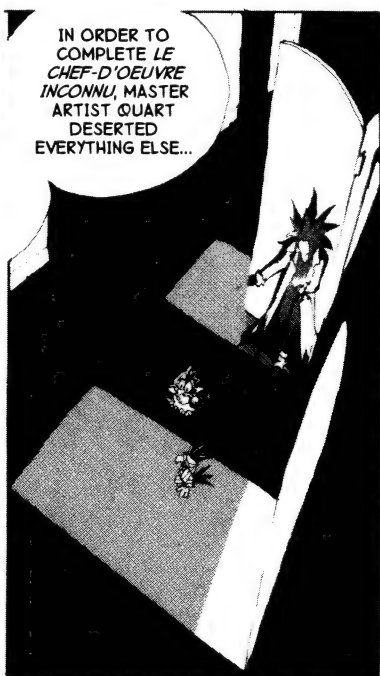
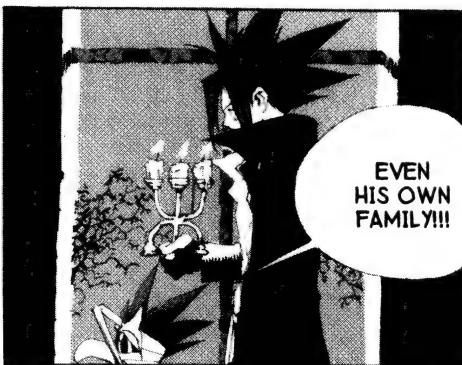
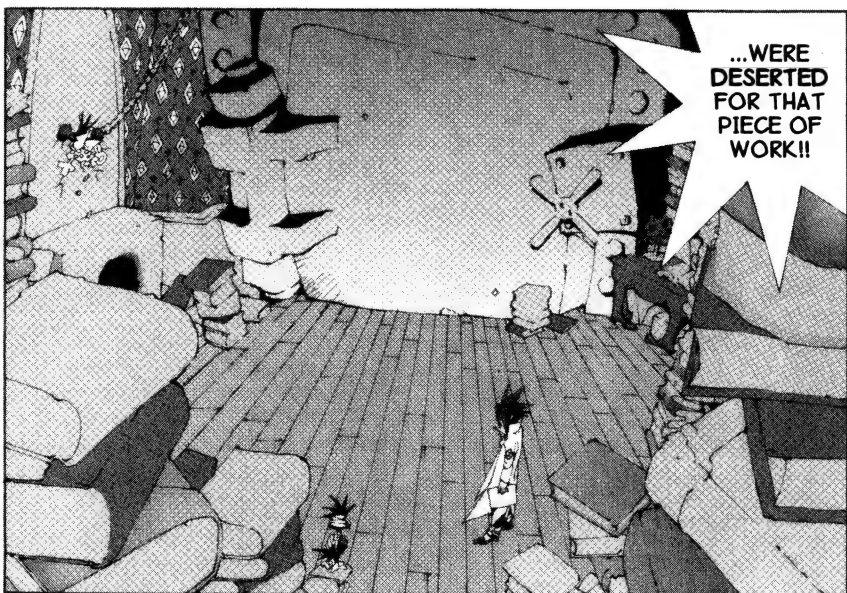


SIMILAR TO THE
BIRD OF PARADISE,
WHICH CONTAINS
EVERY COLOR
CONCEIVABLE AND
EMBODIES SUPREME
BEAUTY...

*In reputation,
anyway.*

BUT...FINO
AND HER
MOTHER...







KNOWING THAT NO
EXISTING PAINT
COULD REPRODUCE
ALL THE COLORS OF
THIS WORLD...

...THE MASTER ARTIST
SET OUT ON A JOURNEY
TO CREATE THE IDEAL
PAINTS, DESERTING BOTH
HIS WIFE AND HIS YOUNG
DAUGHTER, FINO.



IT CAME TO THE
POINT WHEN THE
MOTHER AND
DAUGHTER COULD
NO LONGER SUPPORT
THEMSELVES.

ON THAT DAY...THE
DAY OF POMPIER'S
FIRST SNOW, WHEN
THE CITY OF COLORS
WAS OBSCURED BY A
BLANKET OF WHITE...
THEY FOUND ME.



WHAT STANDS OUT
MOST IN MY MIND
IS FINO'S MOTHER
RECITING THESE
WORDS, OVER AND
OVER...



IT WAS
AS IF SHE
WERE
SPINNING
HER OWN
HOPE.

GIVING
HERSELF A
REASON TO
GO ON.

IF ONLY TO
GIVE A BODY
NEW LIFE
AMID THE
RAINDROPS
AND UNDER
THE MUD.
GOOD NEWS
WILL ARRIVE
ON THE WINGS
OF THE
WIND AFTER
COUNTLESS
TRIALS OF
FLAME.

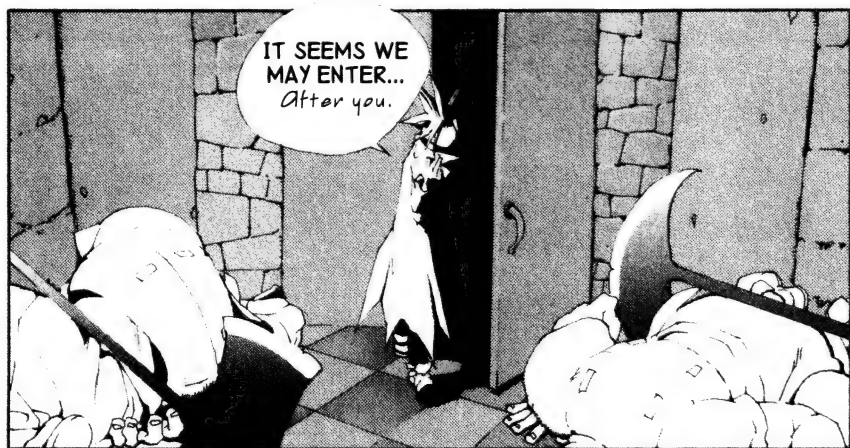


FOO.



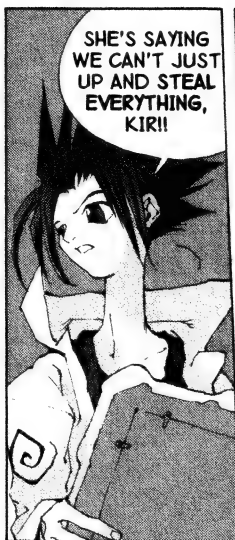
YOU GOT
MISTAKEN FOR
A MYNAH BIRD,
HUH?

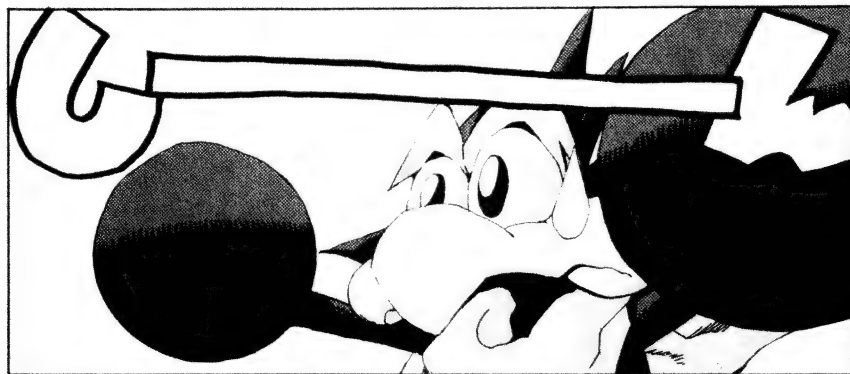
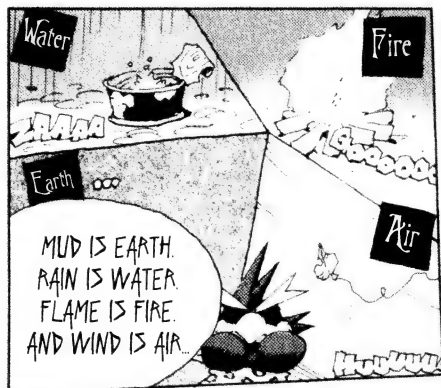








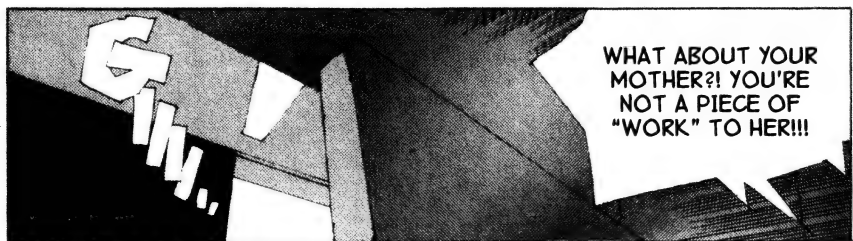








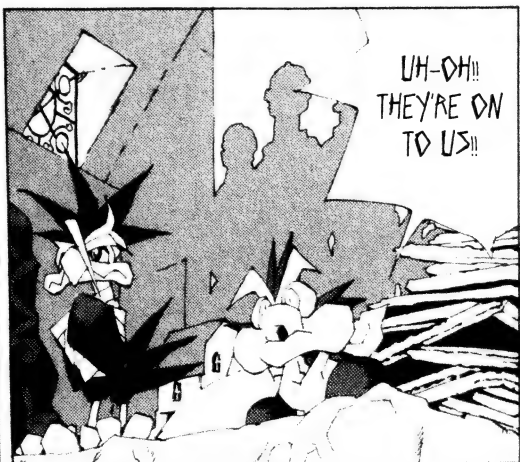
IDIOT!!!



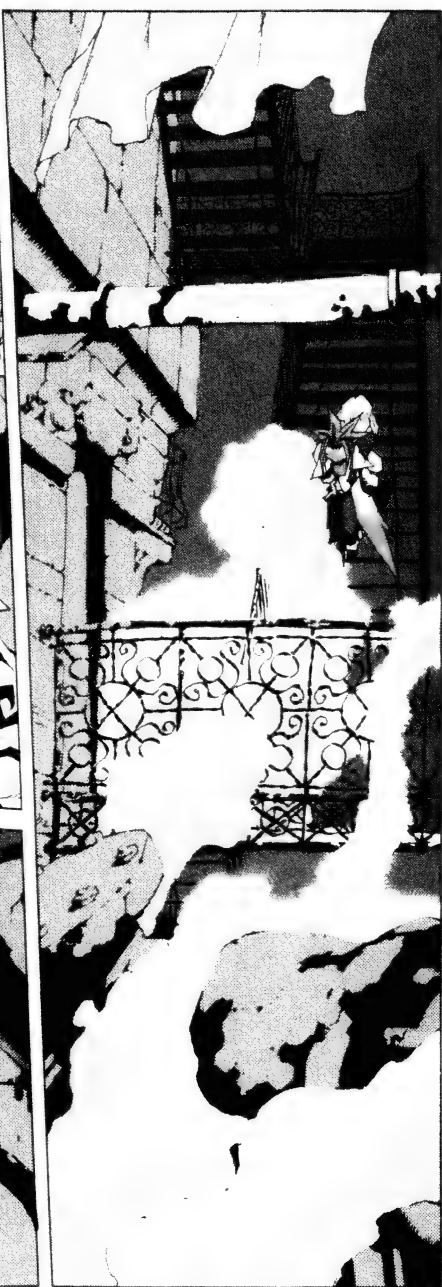
WHAT ABOUT YOUR
MOTHER?! YOU'RE
NOT A PIECE OF
"WORK" TO HER!!!

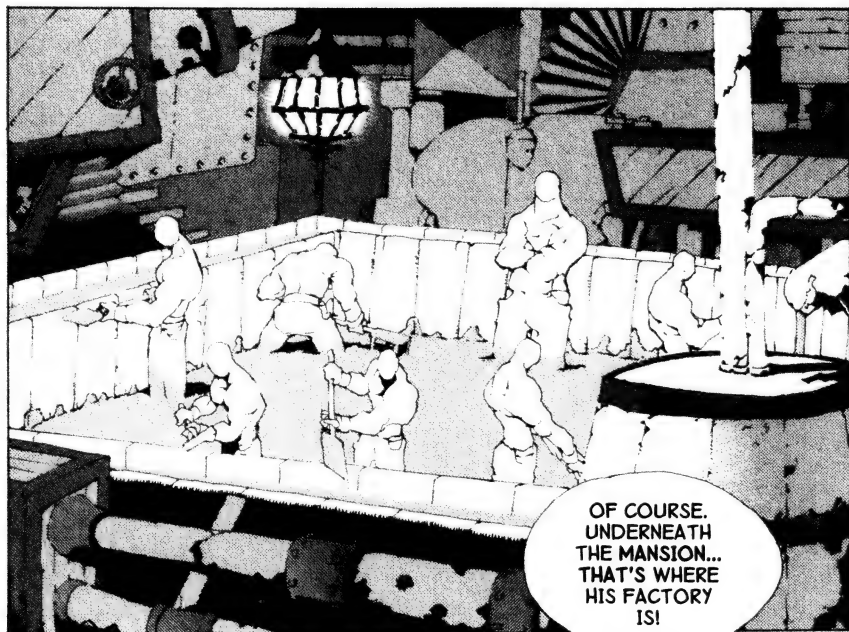


RUN!!



UH-OH!!
THEY'RE ON
TO US!!

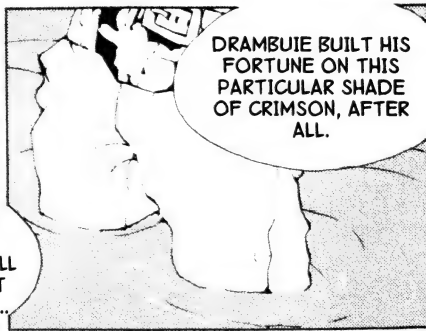




OF COURSE.
UNDERNEATH
THE MANSION...
THAT'S WHERE
HIS FACTORY
IS!



SO ITS
PRODUCTION METHOD
HAD TO BE KEPT TOP
SECRET! AND I THINK WE'LL
FIND THE CORE OF THAT
SECRET JUST UP AHEAD...

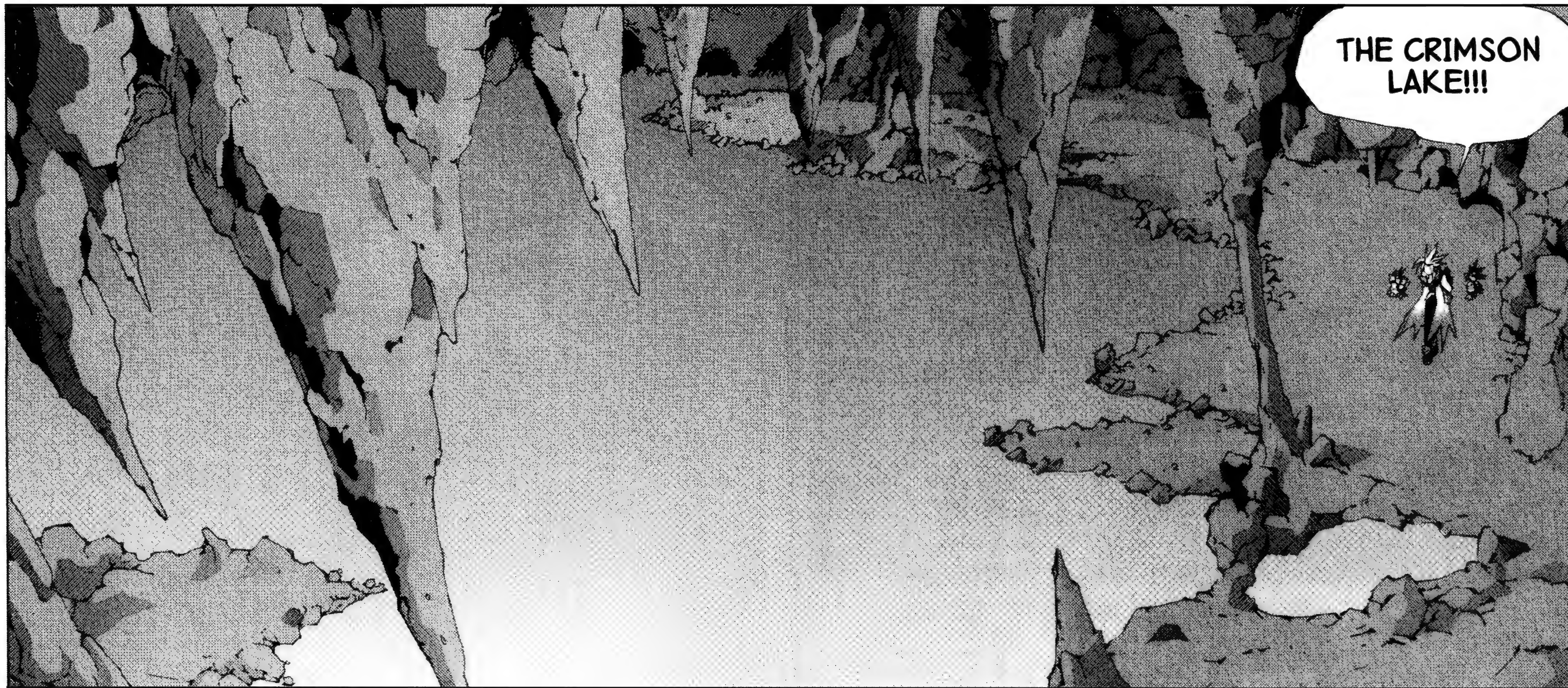


DRAMBUIE BUILT HIS
FORTUNE ON THIS
PARTICULAR SHADE
OF CRIMSON, AFTER
ALL.



IN AN UNDERGROUND
WELL, SO TO SPEAK.

TATA!



THE CRIMSON
LAKE!!!



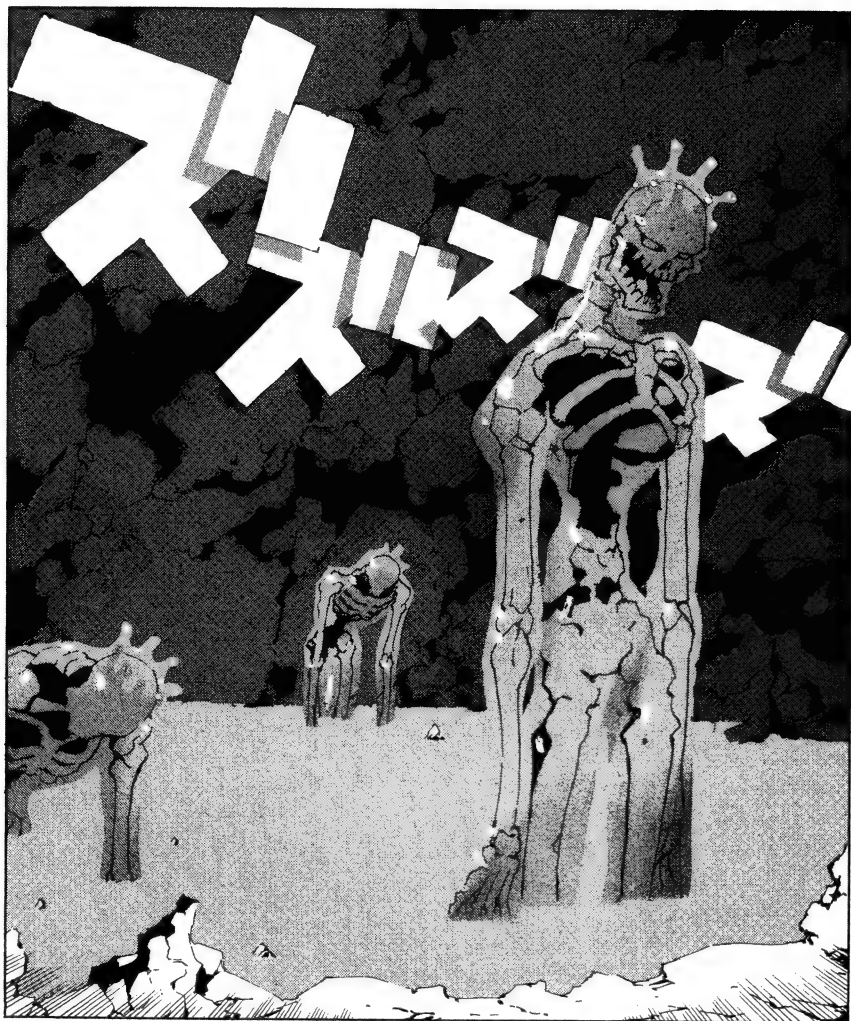
LOOK!!!
THERE!!!

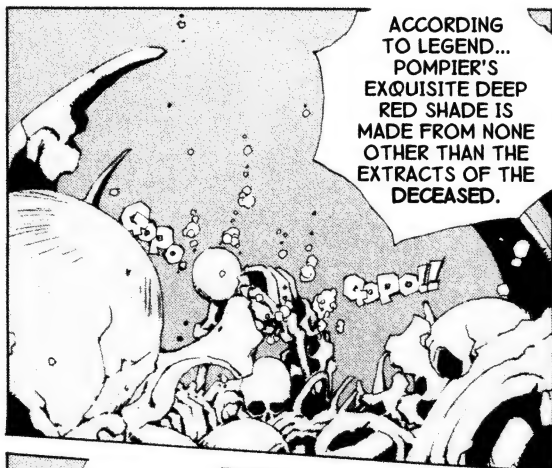


...I THINK
WE'LL
ATTRACT
SOME MORE
UNWELCOME
COMPANY.



ON THE OTHER
HAND, IF WE
DON'T GET OUT
OF HERE SOON...





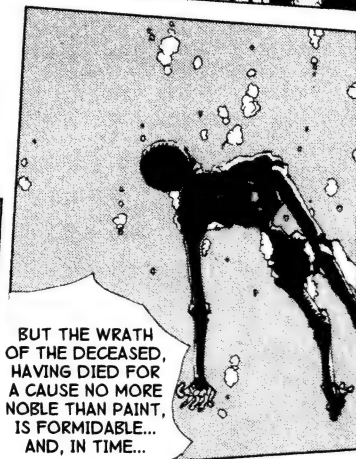
ACCORDING
TO LEGEND...
POMPIER'S
EXQUISITE DEEP
RED SHADE IS
MADE FROM NONE
OTHER THAN THE
EXTRACTS OF THE
DECEASED.

THAT'S RIGHT.
HUNDREDS OF
CORPSES, BOTH
HUMAN AND BEAST,
HAVE BEEN THROWN
TO THE BOTTOM OF
THIS LAKE.

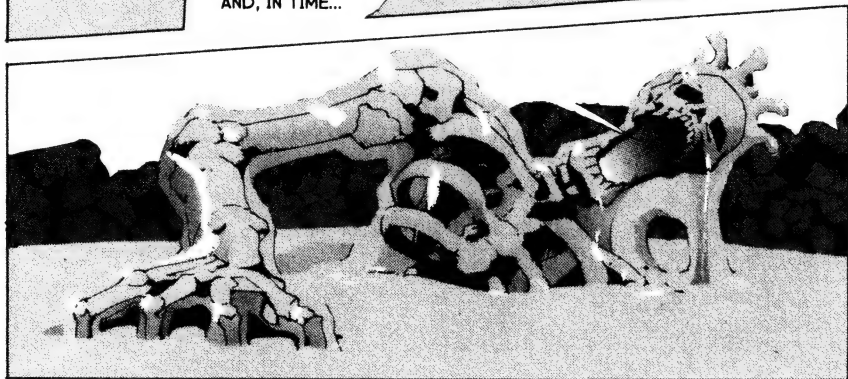


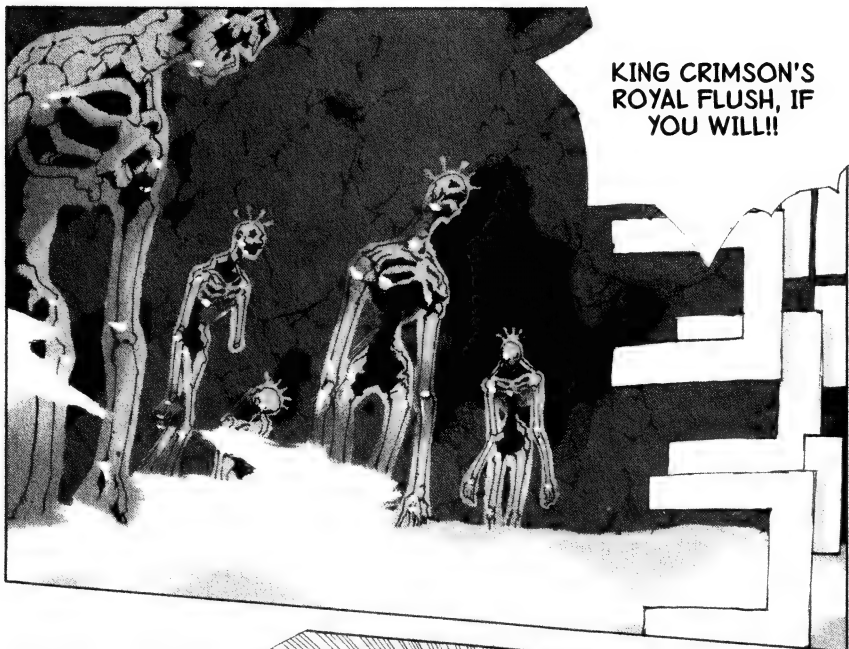
...THEY COME
BACK TO EXACT
THEIR REVENGE ON
THE LIVING...EACH
WEARING A CRIMSON
CROWN MADE
FROM DROPS OF
TAINTED WATER.

PLUP!



BUT THE WRATH
OF THE DECEASED,
HAVING DIED FOR
A CAUSE NO MORE
NOBLE THAN PAINT,
IS FORMIDABLE...
AND, IN TIME...

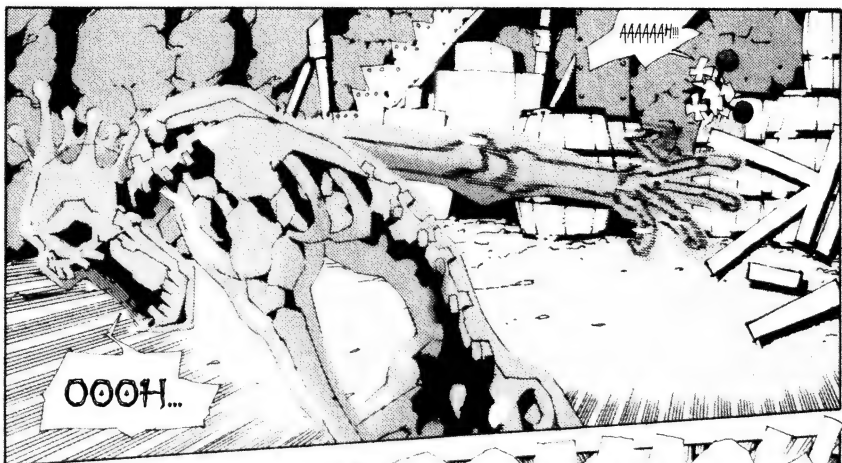


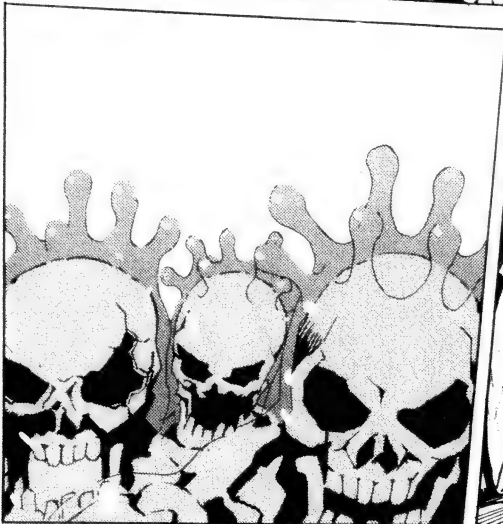
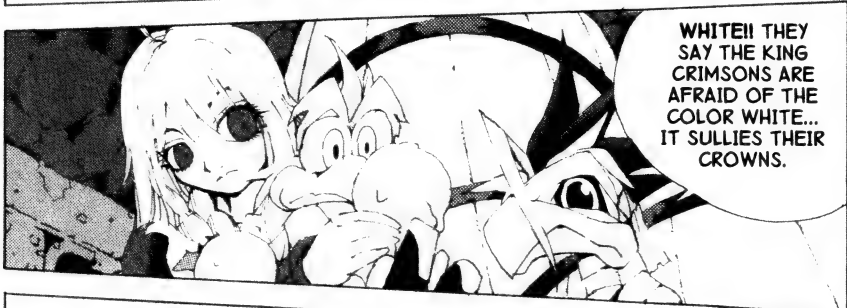
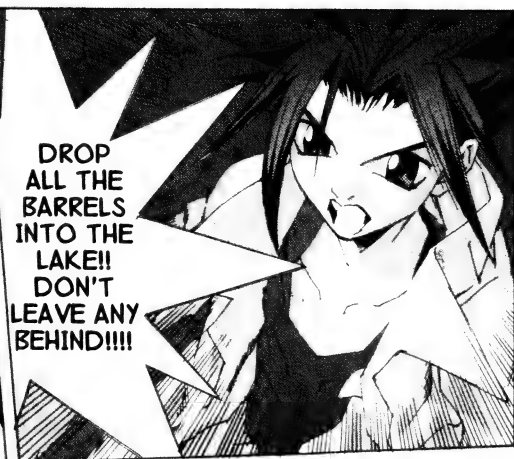


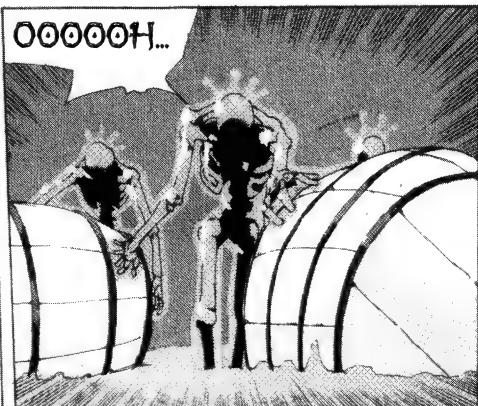
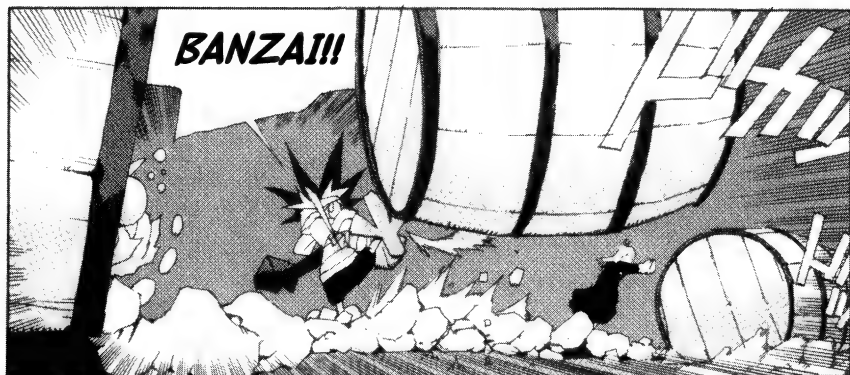
KING CRIMSON'S
ROYAL FLUSH, IF
YOU WILL!!



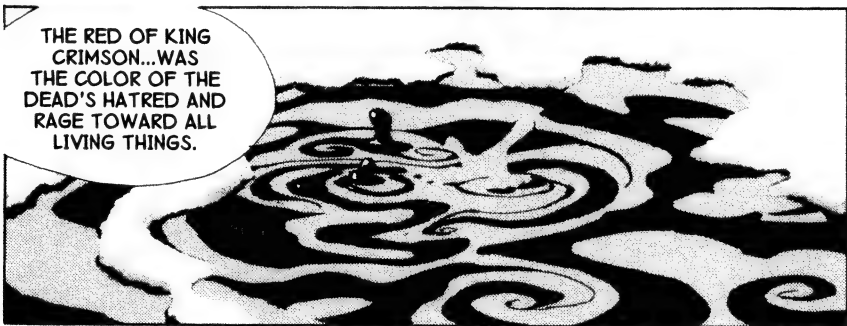
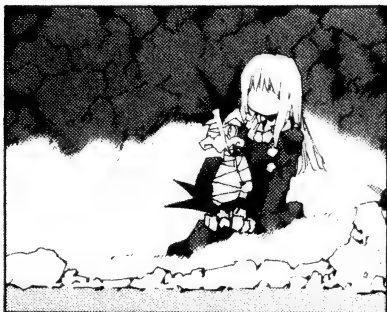
AH...!!













BUT WHEN THAT
COLOR WAS
VIOLATED...THE
KING LOST HIS
CROWN.



LET'S HOPE
HIS ROYAL
HIGHNESS...



...WILL REST
MORE EASILY
NOW.



*IT'S
SNOWING...*

34th SHOT - THE FIFTH ELEMENT

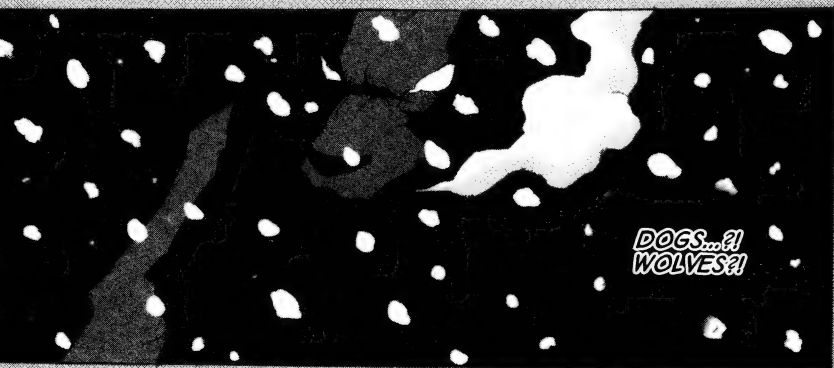


MOM...
MOM...?

SNOW IS ALL
AROUND US.



THERE'S...
THERE'S
SOMETHING
HERE.



DOGS...?!
WOLVES?!



ARE WE GONNA
GET EATEN,
MOM? MOM,
I'M SCARED!





RED...IT'S
BLOOD.
RED
BLOOD...

MOM...!!

MOM?!!

JUST LIKE
IN DAD'S
PAINTINGS...

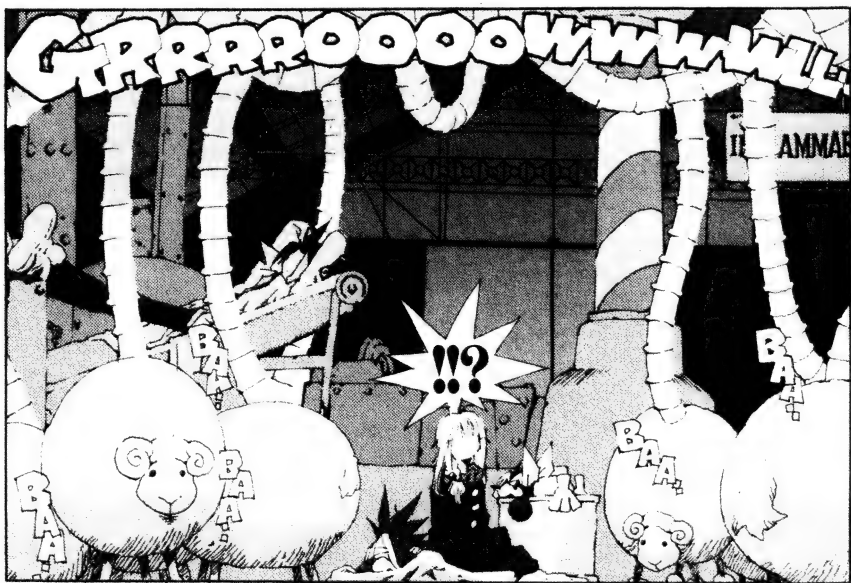
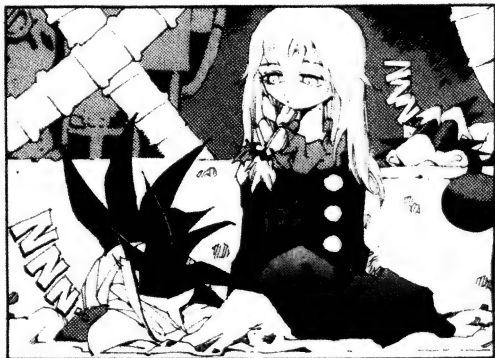
MOM...
MOM!!!!

...DEEP RED.

PI!PI!

PI..

PI..





SOME...
SOMETHING'S
HERE!!



GRRRRR...

!?



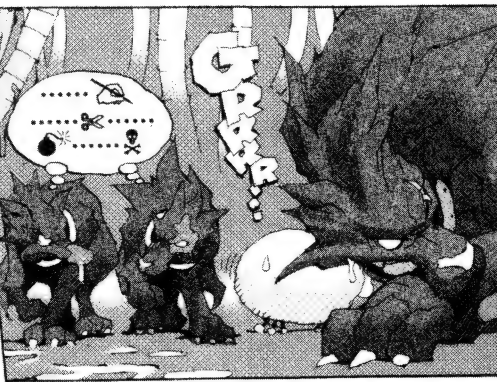
UHN?

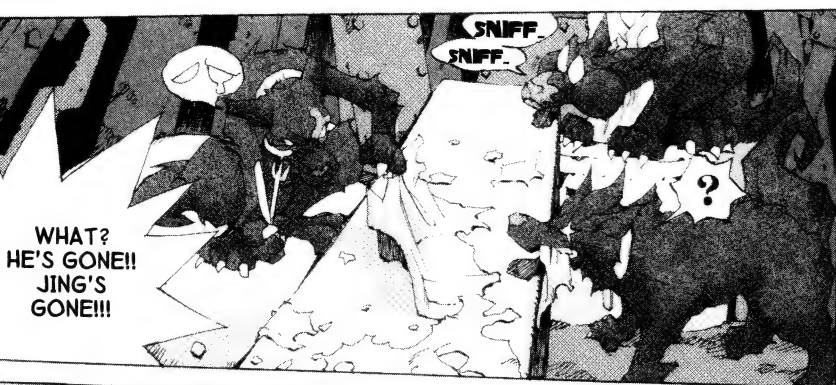
FIND!

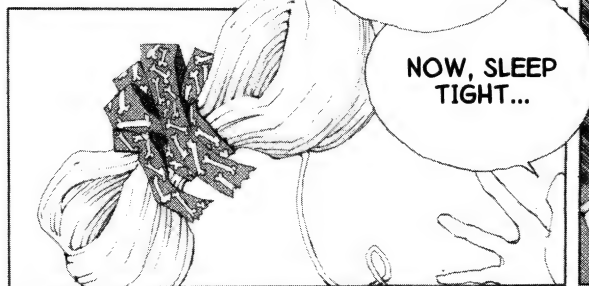
OH!

AH...

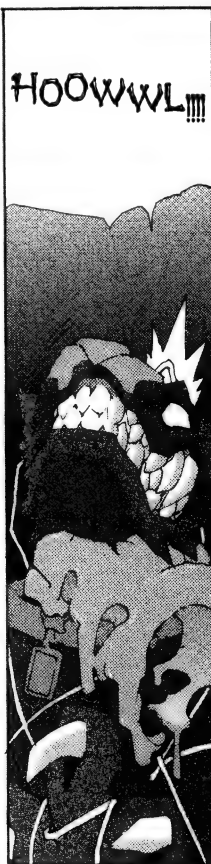
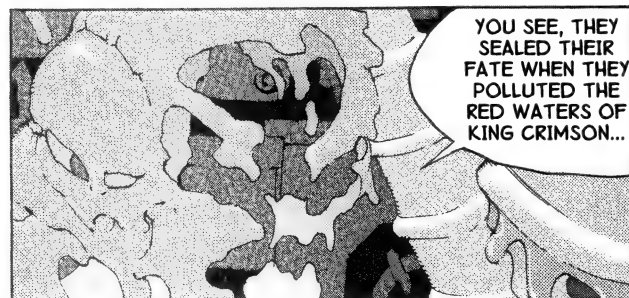
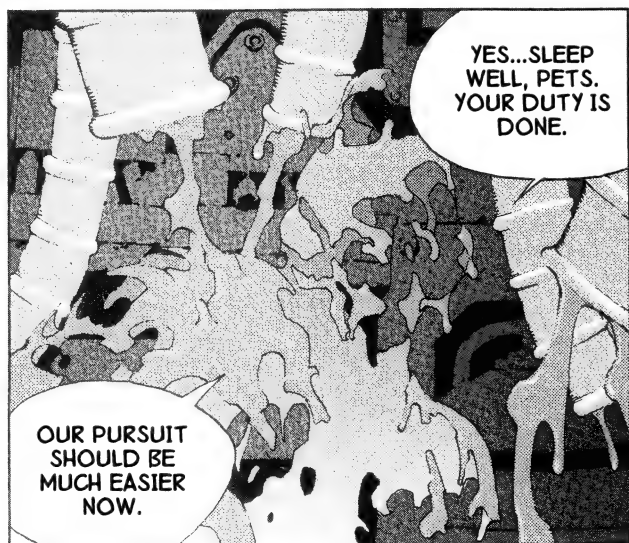
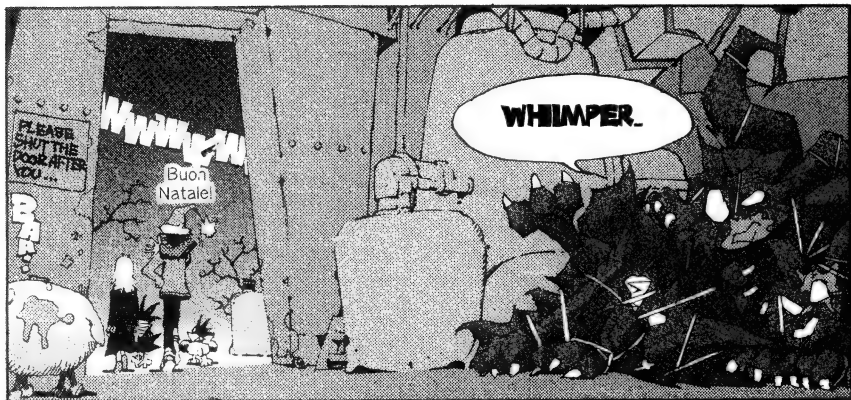
THEY'RE ABOUT
TO ANNOUNCE
WHO'LL PLAY RED
RIDING HOOD!



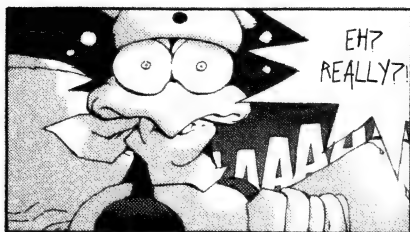












EH?
REALLY?



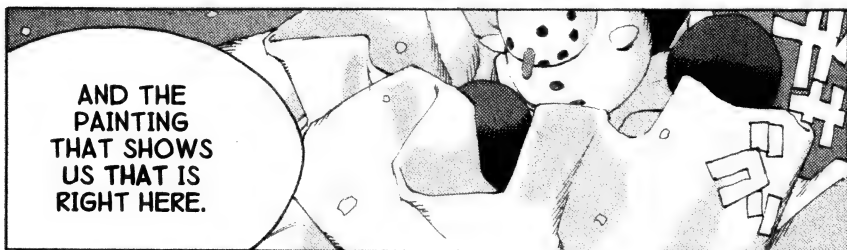
HEY, KIR?
REMEMBER
WHAT YOU
SAID ABOUT
THE FOUR
ELEMENTS--
FIRE, WATER,
EARTH AND
AIR? YOU
WERE RIGHT.



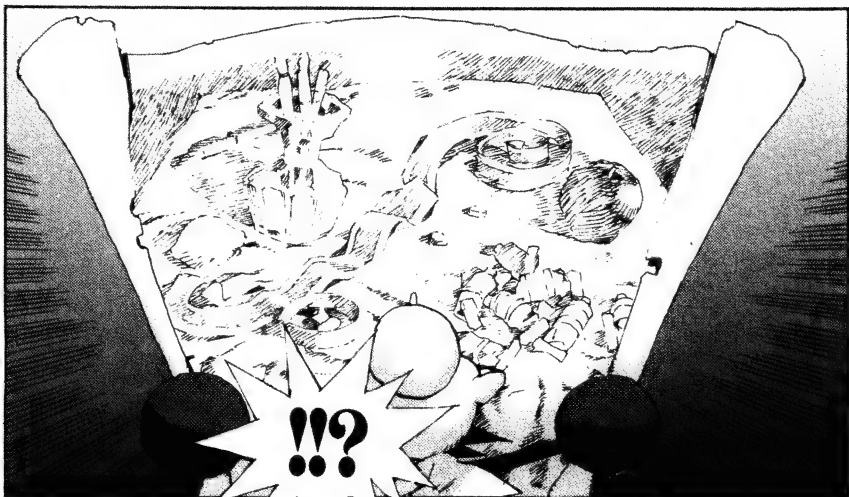
YOUR ONLY
MISTAKE WAS
WORRYING TOO
MUCH ABOUT
WHAT THEY
REPRESENTED...
AND TRYING TO PUT
THEM IN ORDER.



THE TRUTH IS, THERE'S
NO CONNECTION WITH
FIRE, WATER, EARTH OR
AIR. THAT CLUE WAS JUST
SUPPOSED TO POINT
YOU...TO A FIFTH AND
FINAL ELEMENT.



AND THE
PAINTING
THAT SHOWS
US THAT IS
RIGHT HERE.



...MUST BE
VIN QUART'S
RESIDENCE!!



Y'MEAN...THE RIBBON IS A RIVER OR SOMETHING?

ACCORDING
TO THIS
COMPASS, IT
SHOULD BE
DUE NORTH
OF POMPIER!!

BINGO!!

IF WE KEEP HEADING NORTH AND CROSS THIS RIVER, WE SHOULD SEE THE MOUNTAIN RANGE SOON AFTER.

THE ANSWER WILL BE THERE...

BINGO!!

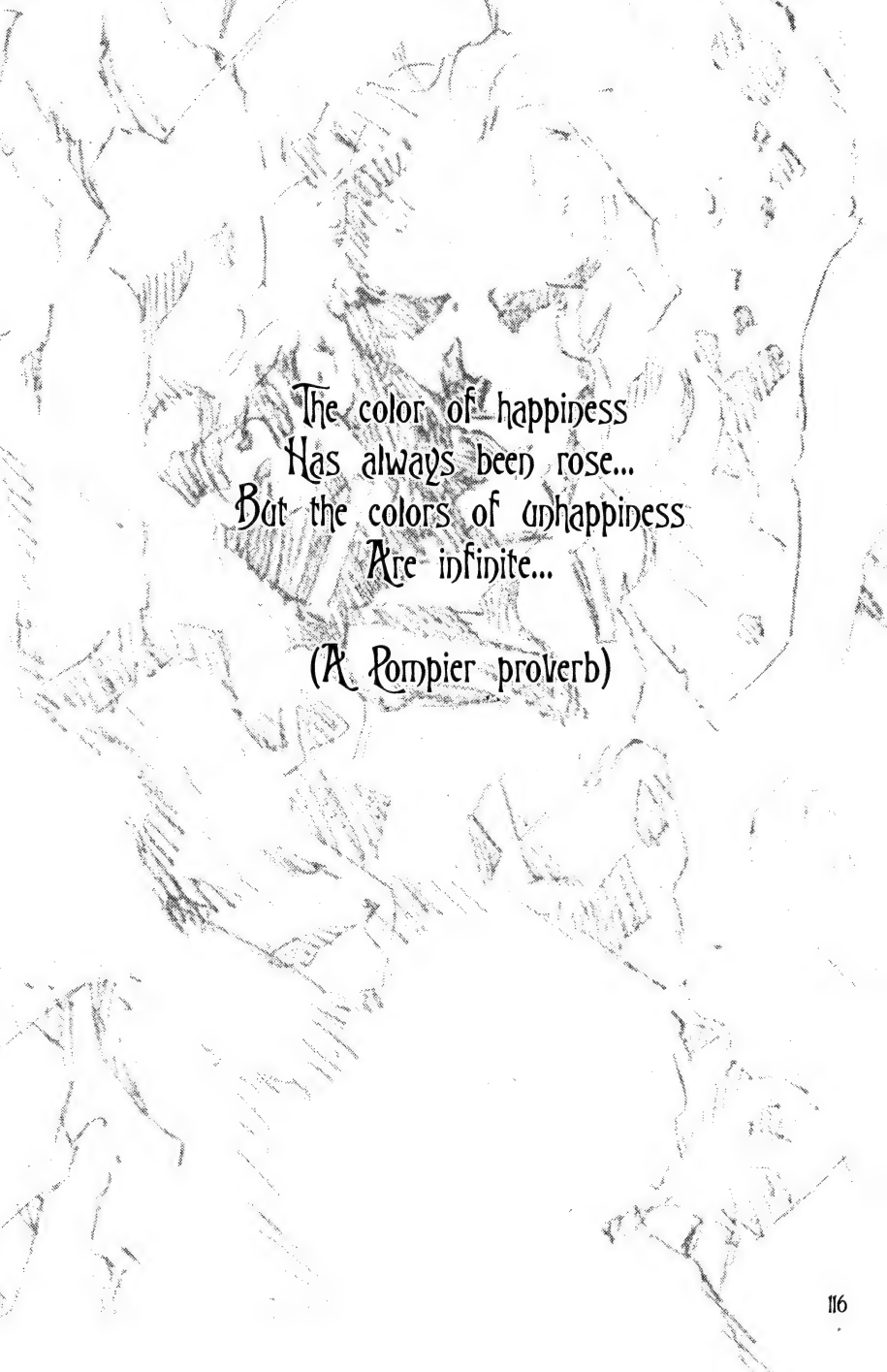
IF WE KEEP HEADING NORTH AND CROSS THIS RIVER, WE SHOULD SEE THE MOUNTAIN RANGE SOON AFTER.

THE ANSWER WILL BE THERE...

BINGO!!

IF WE KEEP HEADING NORTH AND CROSS THIS RIVER, WE SHOULD SEE THE MOUNTAIN RANGE SOON AFTER.

THE ANSWER WILL BE THERE...



The color of happiness
Has always been rose...
But the colors of unhappiness
Are infinite...

(A Rompier proverb)



KING OF BANDIT JING
TATTOOED
HEART



35TH SHOT - BURNING HOUSE OF ICE RIVER







SORRY...
THERE WAS
NO WAY IN
BUT THE
CHIMNEY...



...BUT AT
LEAST WE'RE
IN, RIGHT?

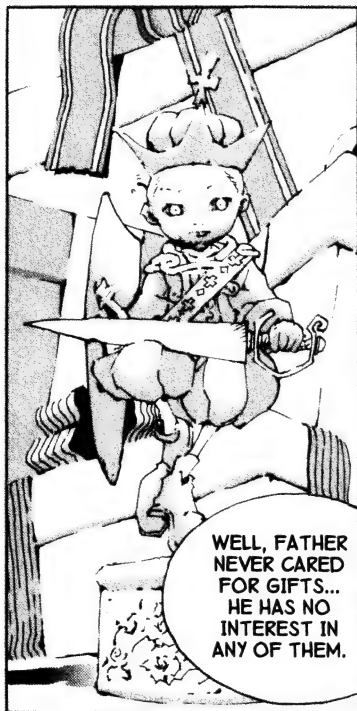


HE FROZE
THE ENTIRE
HOUSE IN
ICE, YOU
SEE...

UUUUUUH, IT'S
COLD!! IT'S LIKE
ALL OF WINTER
CAME HERE FOR
THE NIGHT.







WELL, FATHER
NEVER CARED
FOR GIFTS...
HE HAS NO
INTEREST IN
ANY OF THEM.



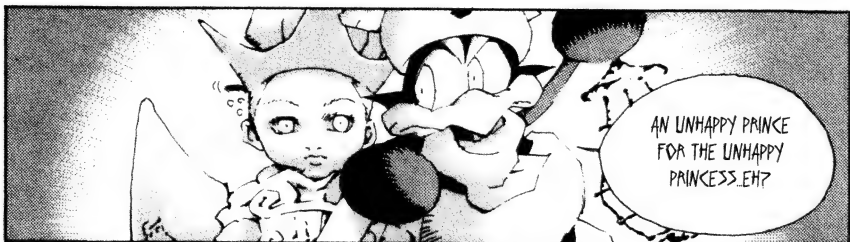
BUT THIS...
IT'S A
COMPLETE
MESS!



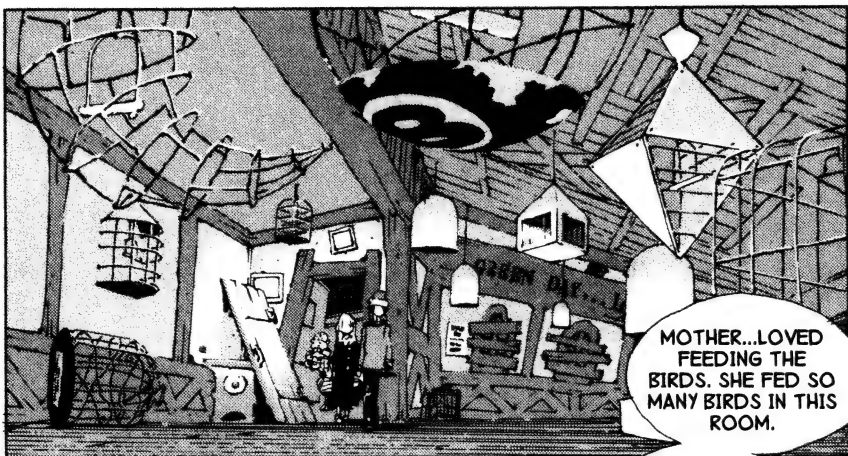
YES...MY
FATHER
RECEIVED
PRESENTS
LIKE THESE
EVERY DAY.



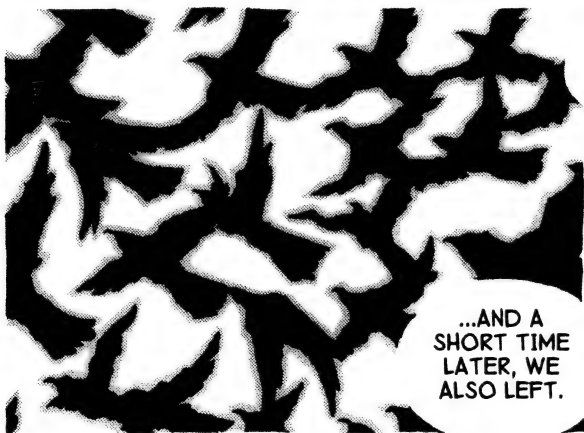
EVEN
MOM...AND
ME.



AN UNHAPPY PRINCE
FOR THE UNHAPPY
PRINCESS_EH?



MOTHER...LOVED
FEEDING THE
BIRDS. SHE FED SO
MANY BIRDS IN THIS
ROOM.



BUT AFTER
FATHER LEFT...
SHE FREED
THEM ALL...

...AND A
SHORT TIME
LATER, WE
ALSO LEFT.

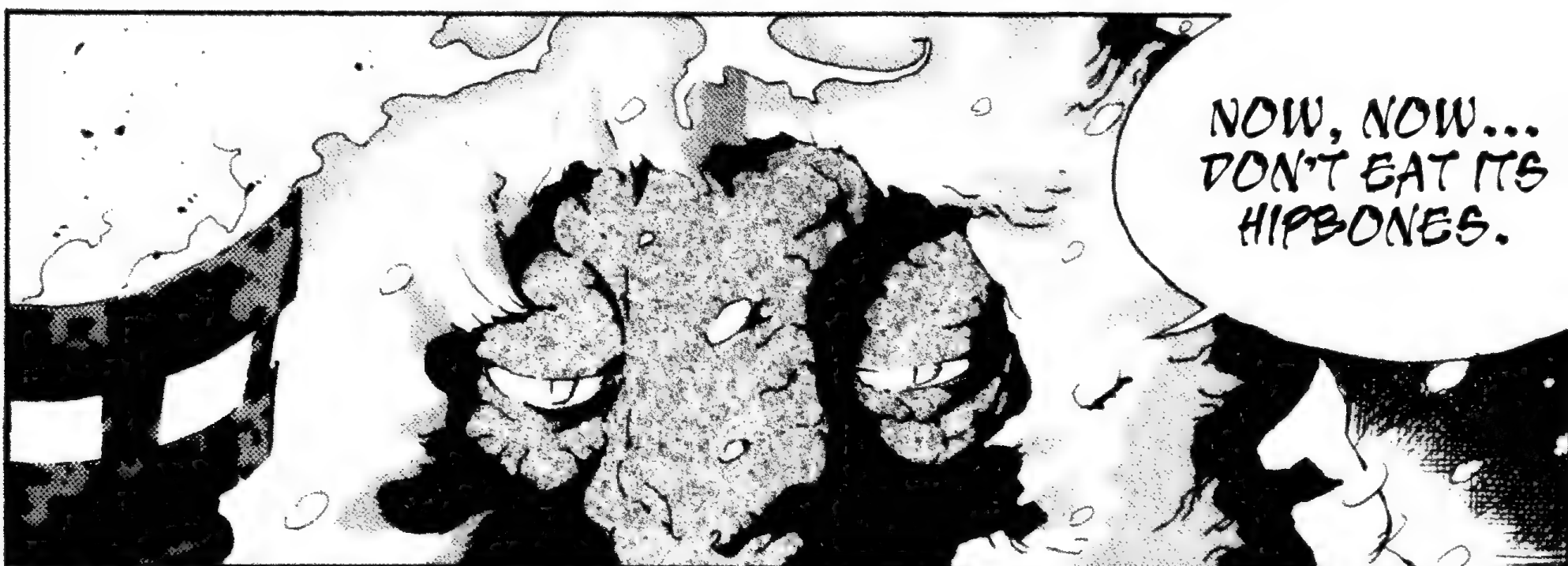
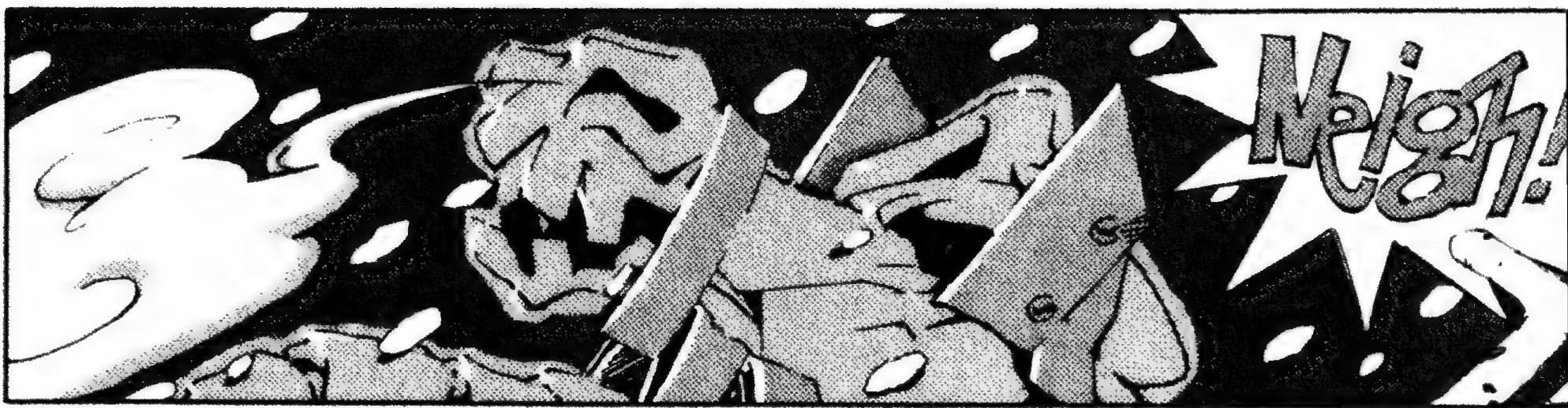


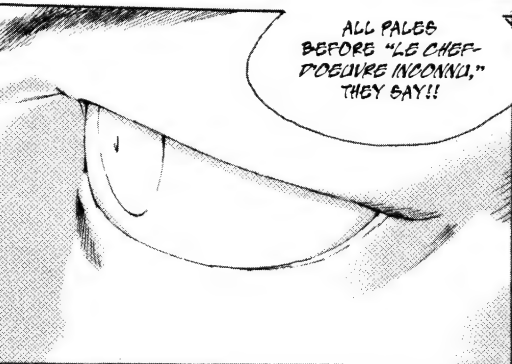
...NEITHER DID
MASTER PAINTER
QUART!!



SUCH COLD-HEARTED
BIRDS. NONE OF
THEM CAME BACK, DID
THEY?

TRUE...BUT
THEN AGAIN...





ALL PALES
BEFORE "LE CHEF-
DOEUVRE INCONNU,"
THEY SAY!!



AH,
DRAMBOUE...
YOU FINALLY
CAME!!

IF I PULLED TEN
THOUSAND MOLARS,
I DOUBT IT COME
CLOSE TO THE
VALUE I'M ABOUT TO
ENCOUNTER...



"LE CHEF-D'OEUVRE INCONNU?" HECK I CAN'T EVEN FIND THE TOILET. IT'S A SAD, SAD THING WHEN A BIRD CAN'T DO HIS BUSINESS.

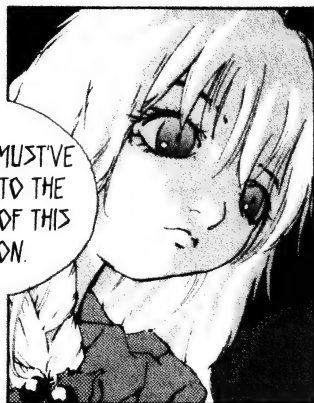


COME TO THINK OF IT—IF THIS THING REALLY DOES CONTAIN ALL THE COLORS IN THE WORLD—WOULDN'T THAT MAKE IT PITCH BLACK?



THE THING MUST'VE MELTED INTO THE SHADOWS OF THIS MANSION.

I HAVEN'T SEEN ONE SINGLE CANVAS...



A PAINTING, JING?
LOOKS MORE LIKE A
SCULPTURE...A RELIEF!!



YOU SEE?
THERE IS A
PAINTING,
HERE ON
THIS WALL!!
THERE'S YOUR
CANVAS!!!!



WELL, SURE...
EXCEPT FOR
THIS ANGEL
HERE.



MOVE THE
LIGHT--LIKE
SO--AND
YOU'LL SEE
WHAT I MEAN.

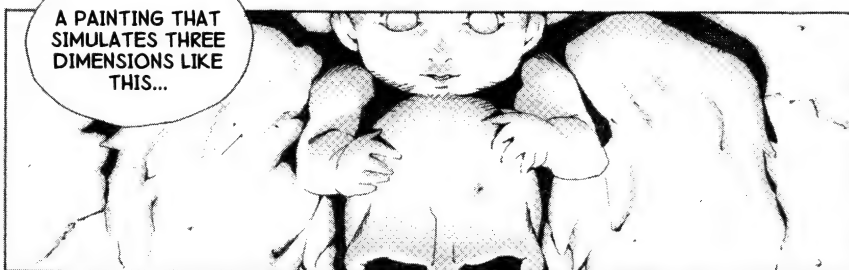


**NO...IT'S
A TROMPE
L'OEIL!!!**





YOU SEE?!
THE SHADOW
DOESN'T
MOVE!!



A PAINTING THAT
SIMULATES THREE
DIMENSIONS LIKE
THIS...



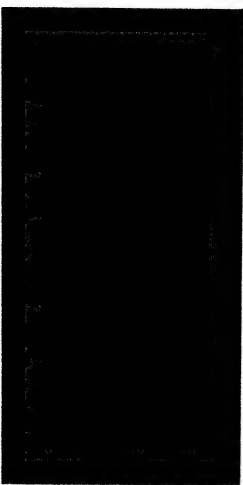
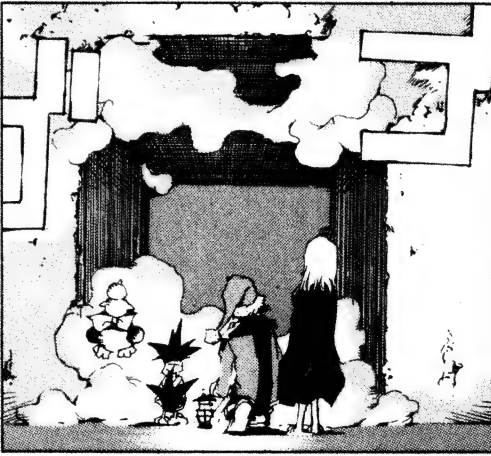
...YOUR
FATHER...
ALMOST
FOOLED
US ALL.

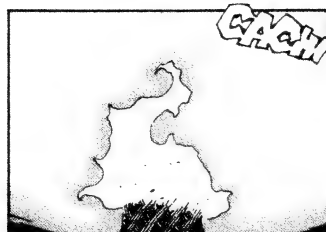


...IS CALLED A
TROMPE L'OEIL.



ONE OF MASTER
PAINTER QUART'S
MANY RENOWNED
TECHNIQUES.
FINO...









SOME KIND OF
EXTREME-WEATHER
ENDURANCE MEET?
OH..!

FINO...FINO...
THAT...!

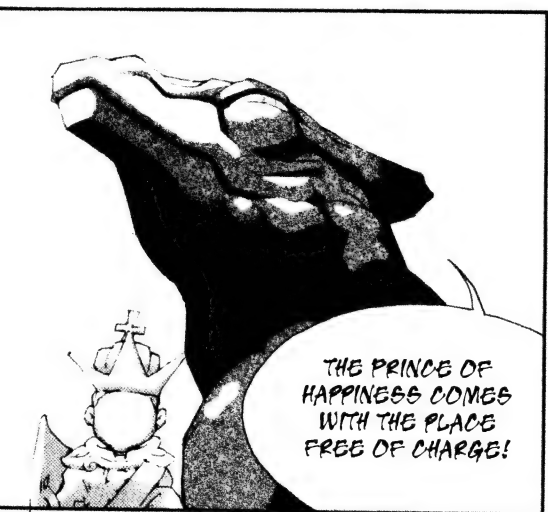
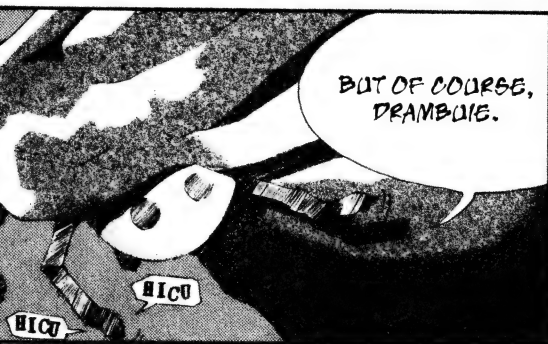
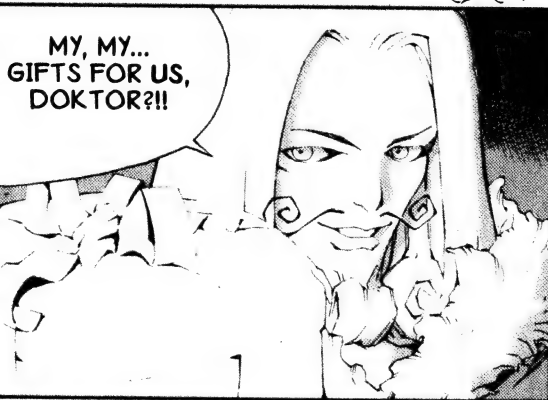
OH...AH...
AHH!

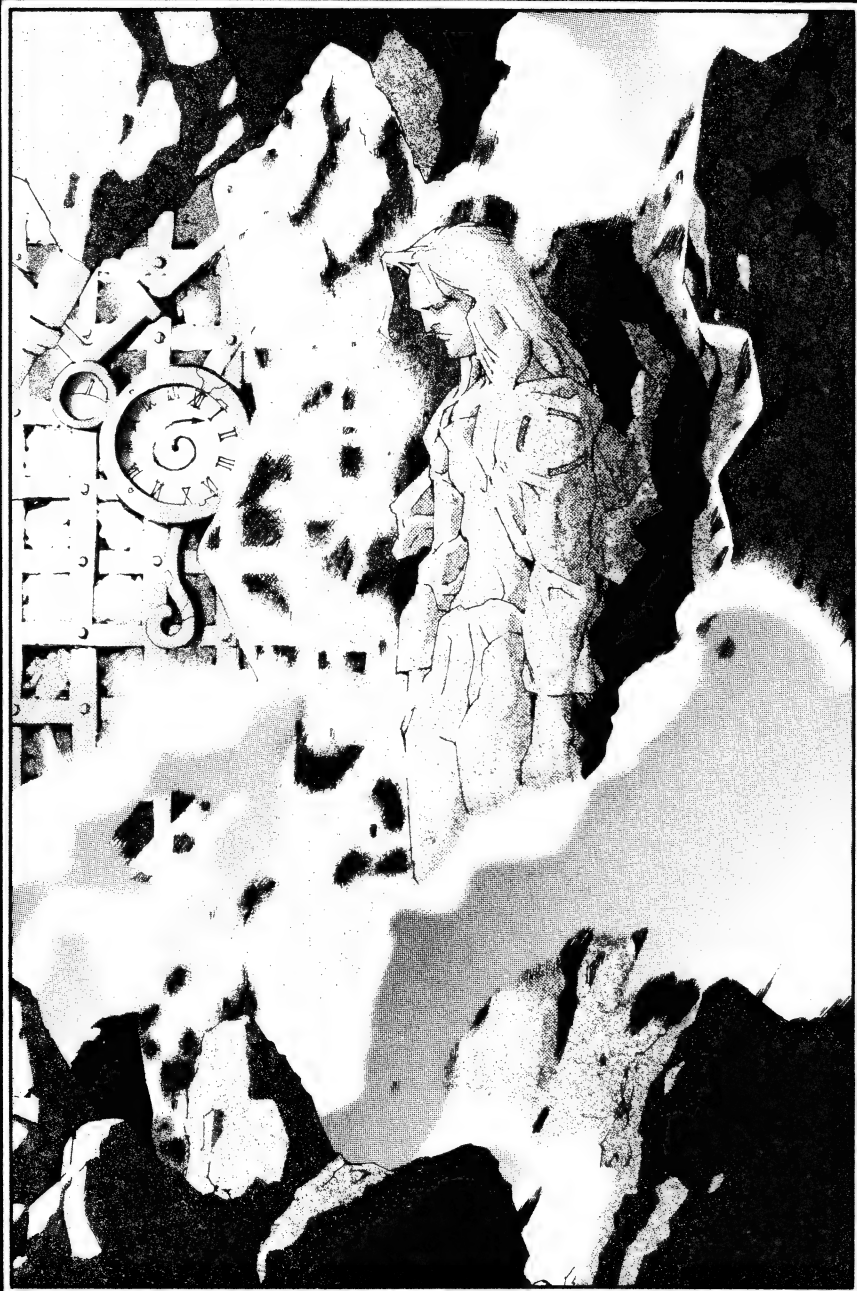


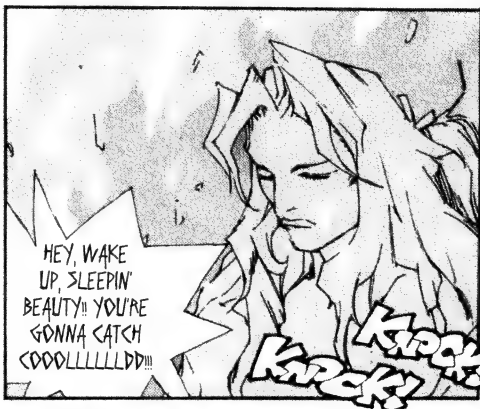
THAT...
THAT'S
MY...



...FATHER!!

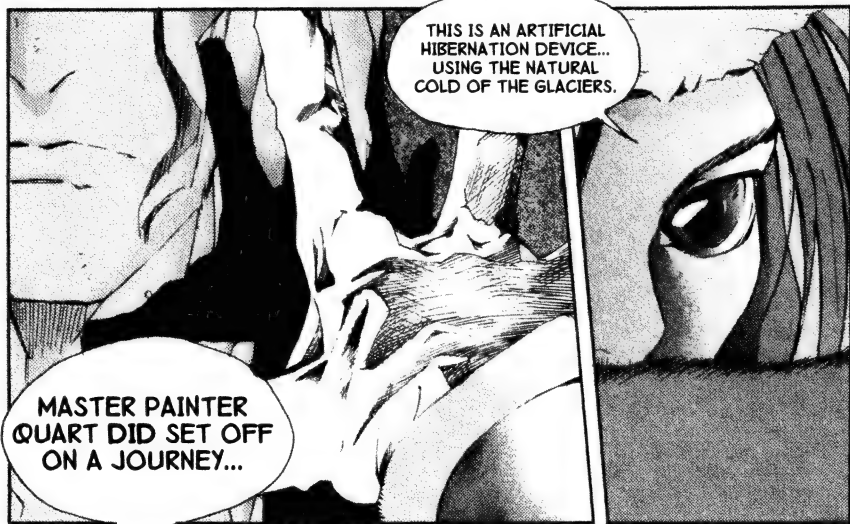






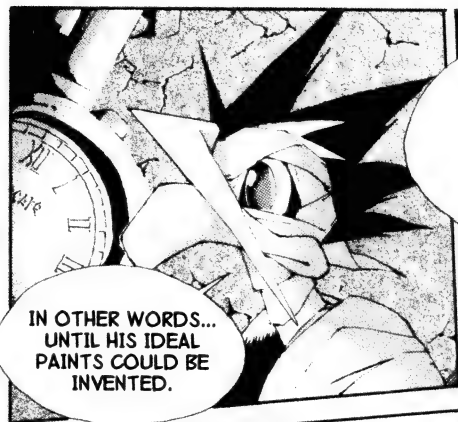


I SEE.
A JOURNEY...
IT WAS A
JOURNEY.

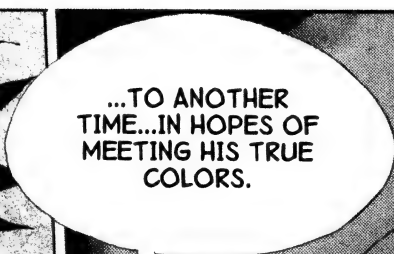


MASTER PAINTER
QUART DID SET OFF
ON A JOURNEY...

THIS IS AN ARTIFICIAL
HIBERNATION DEVICE...
USING THE NATURAL
COLD OF THE GLACIERS.



IN OTHER WORDS...
UNTIL HIS IDEAL
PAINTS COULD BE
INVENTED.

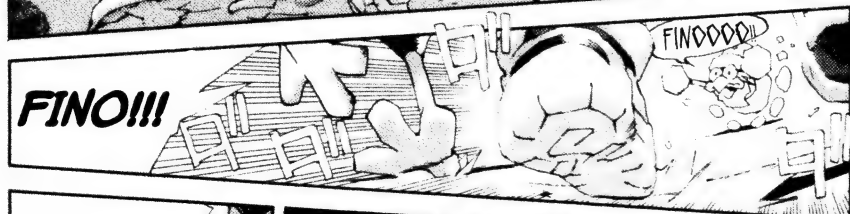
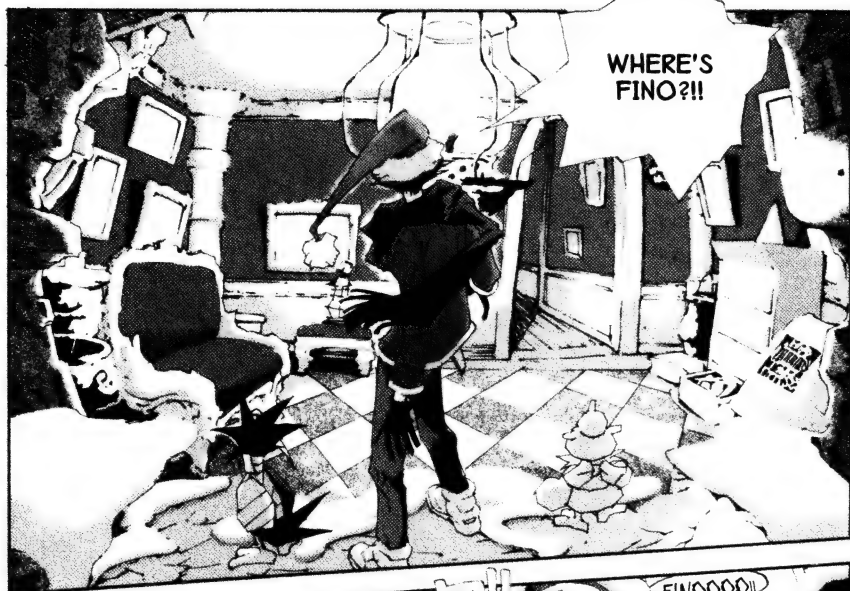


...TO ANOTHER
TIME...IN HOPES OF
MEETING HIS TRUE
COLORS.



Y'MEAN...HE'S
JUST BEEN
WAITING
HERE ALL
THIS TIME?!!







CAREFUL...FINO'S
NOT THE ONLY ONE
IN DANGER. IF ANY
OF US GETS LOST
IN THIS SUB-ZERO
MAZE...



YEAH, TELL ME
ABOUT IT. IT'S BAD
ENOUGH THAT
TWO OUT OF
THREE OF US ARE
NYCTALOPIC.

EH?!!



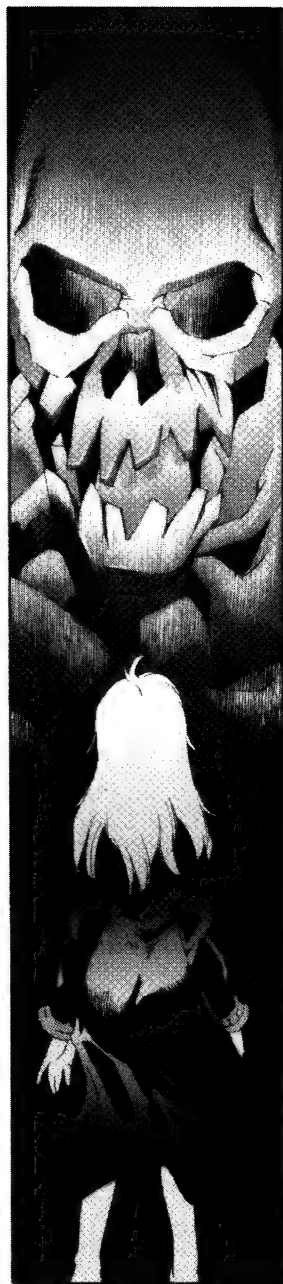
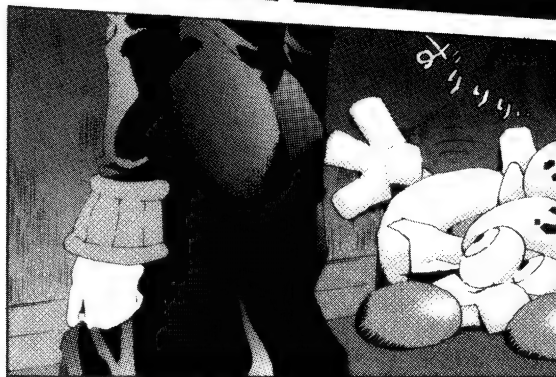
DID YOU
FIND HER?!!

NOPE.



OVER
THERE!!! ISN'T
THAT HER?!!







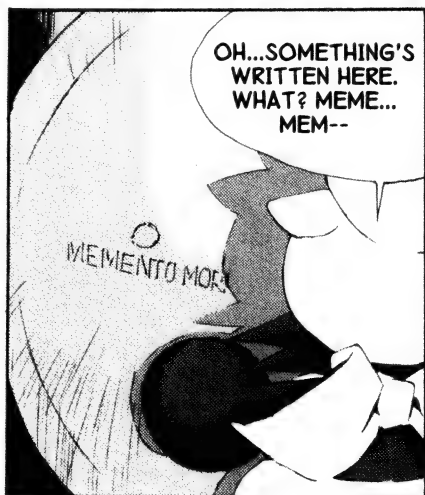
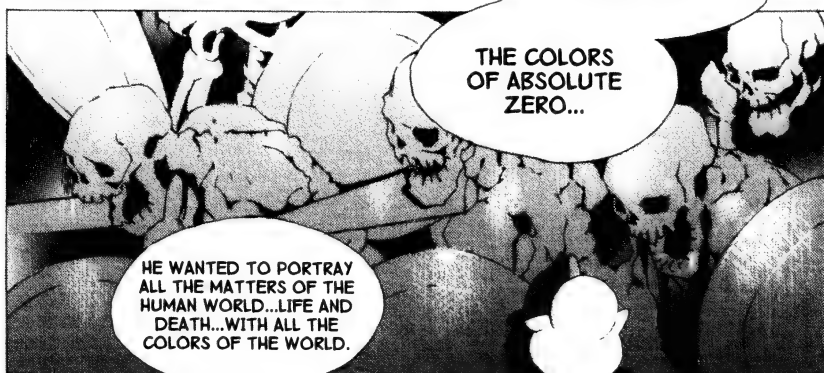


WOW...THIS
MUST BE LE
CHEF-D'OEUVRE
INCONNU.

HE USED THE NATURAL
PATTERN OF THE MARBLE
TO REPRESENT THE CLOUDS
AND WATER...AND MERGED
IT WITH HIS OWN PAINTING.

IT DEFINITELY GIVES
YOU A FEELING OF...ONE
GARGANTUAN FEAST...
OF BOTH NATURAL AND
ARTIFICIAL COLOR.

THIS UNUSUALLY
LARGE MARBLE
WALL BECOMES
HIS WORK...

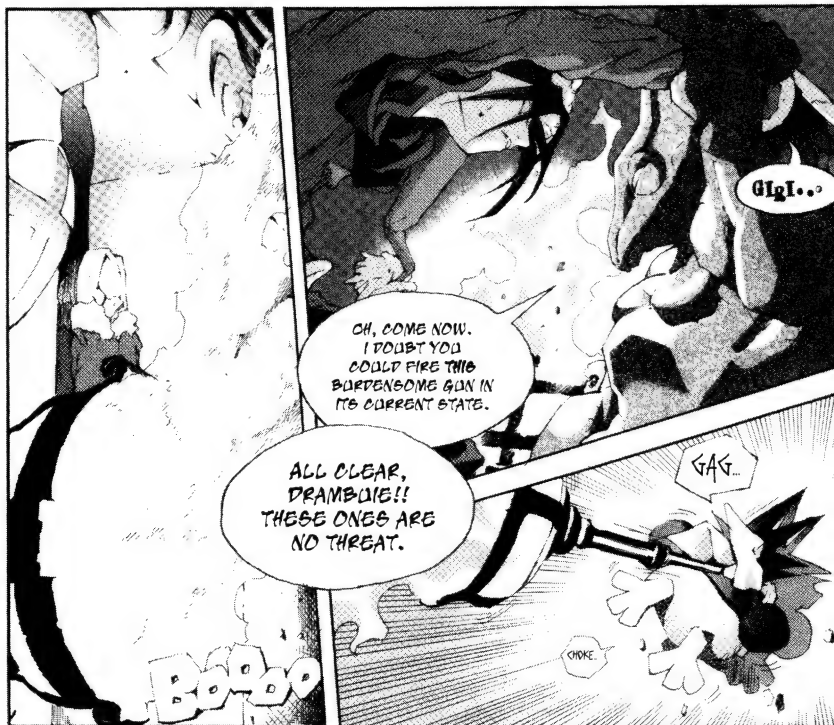


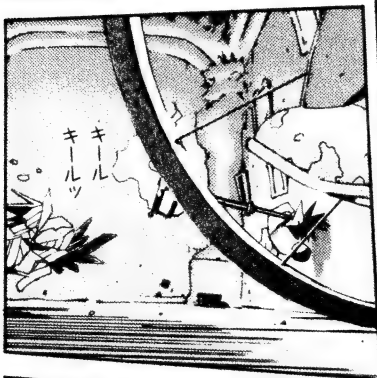
KIR!!!

Booo...

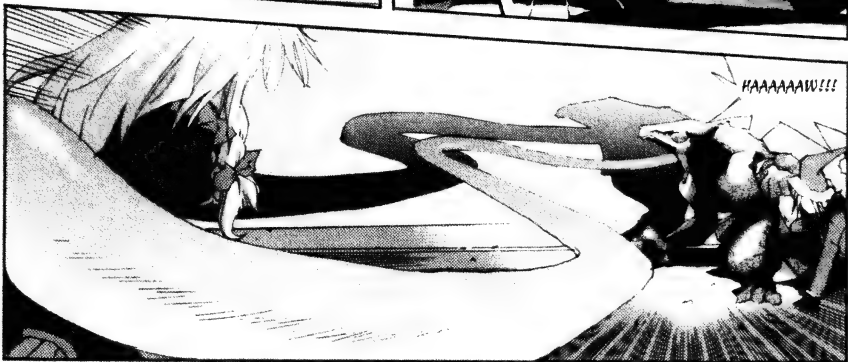
IT MEANS... "DON'T
FORGET DEATH."
NOW AREN'T YOU
GLAD YOU READ
THAT?







THE MASTER SEEMS
TIRED FROM
HIS JOURNEY...
DOKTOR.





DRAMBOUE!!
SHOW QUART THE
ITEM IN QUESTION!!



QUART!!
MASTER
QUART!!
WAKE UP!



...FOR
LE CHEF-D'OEUVRE
INCONNU.



I BRING
WELCOME
NEWS...



LE CHEF-
D'OEUVRE
INCONNU...?



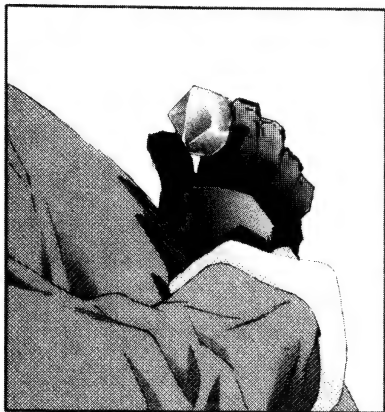
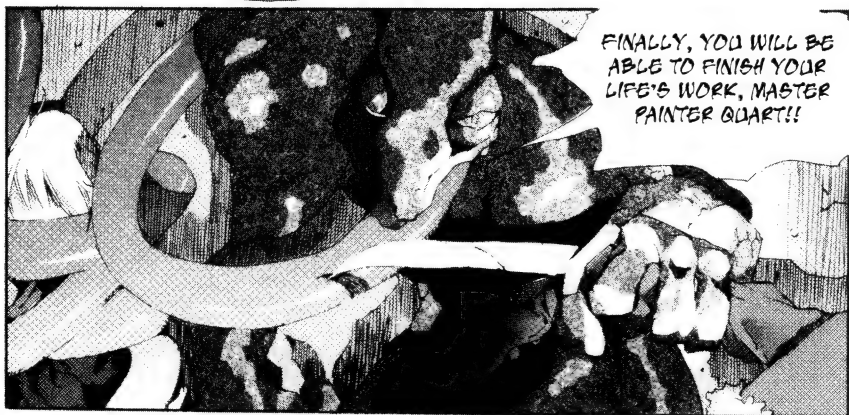
AND I ALSO KNOW
THAT YOU'VE BEEN
IN ARTIFICIAL
HIBERNATION IN
THE HOPES THAT
ONE DAY IT WOULD
EXIST.



YES. I KNOW YOU
WERE SEEKING A
PAINT THAT COULD
REPRESENT A
TRUE, GENUINE
RED...

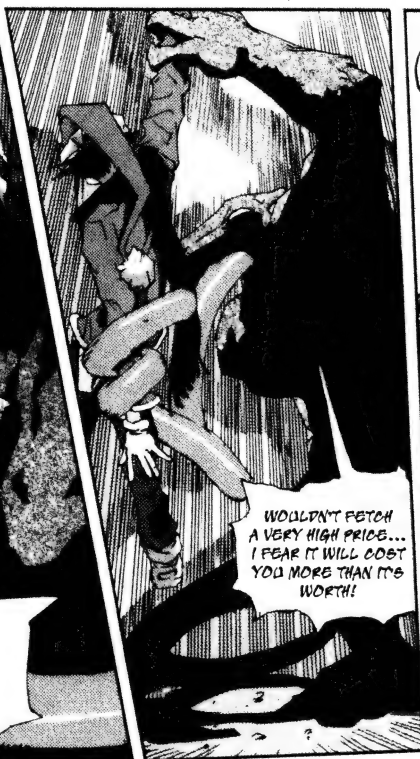


BUT YOUR SEARCH
IS OVER! THE
COLOR YOU'VE
DESIRED FOR SO
LONG...MAY JUST
BE...THE ONE THAT
WE'VE CREATED!!





COME NOW,
MASTER PAINTER!!
THE TIME HAS
COME...

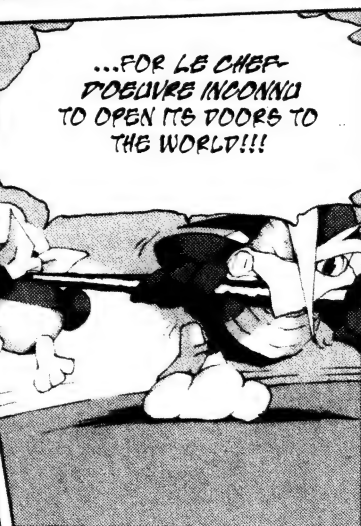


WOULDN'T FETCH
A VERY HIGH PRICE...
I FEAR IT WILL COST
YOU MORE THAN ITS
WORTH!



WHERE DID
YOU GET THAT
JEWEL, BOY?!

.....



...FOR LE CHEF-
D'OEUVRE INCONNU
TO OPEN ITS DOORS TO
THE WORLD!!!





HAAAAA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA!!!

HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HA!!



HA HA HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
THIS...YOU CALL
THIS RED?!

HAHA...HAHAHA...
HAHA...TH...THIS RED...
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU
CALL IT...
...HAS NOTHING...BUT THE
ST...THE STALE STENCH...
HAHAHA...OF DEATH!
IT HAS NOTHING...
NOTHING...!



TEN YEARS
HAVE PASSED
ME BY...

...AND ALL I HAVE
REAPED FROM THEM
IS THE WHITE HAIR OF
BOREDOM...LIKE THAT
OF SNOW! HAHA...

HA
HA HA
HA AAAAA
HA HA!!

YES...
THIS IS IT!
THERE'S
NOTHING...
BUT THIS,
NOW.



**...IS MY
LONG-
DESIRED
RED!!!**



HERE...

37TH SHOT - WHITE TAPESTRY

**WITH
THIS, IT'S
FINISHED...**

**IT'S
FINISHED...**



WHAT IN
THE BLAZES
OF HELL
ARE YOU
DOING?!!!

WH--

THIS IS THE ONLY
REAL RED. FIRE!
YOU SEE?! I WAS A FOOL
TO THINK I COULD FIND
ITS EQUAL...

SLP

OOOWWWWW

...A PIGMENT EQUIVALENT
TO THIS BREATHTAKING
FORCE OF NATURE!!!!

CLANG

WELL, IF IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE ON
EARTH...I'LL JUST
HAVE TO COMPLETE
MY WORK IN
HEAVEN...HU HU...!



I'LL SHOW YOU
ETERNAL ARTIFICIAL
SLEEP!!!

HMM...DID THE BRAIN
DEVELOP NECROSIS
DURING THE SUBJECT'S
EXTENDED ARTIFICIAL
HIBERNATION?



GUAHHH!!!



JINNNGGG!!

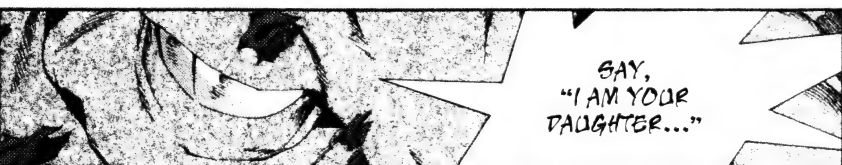


JING!!!!

JL...
JING...?!!



YES, CHILD!
CALL OUT TO
MINE TO YOUR
FATHER WHO'S
GONE MAD!!



SAY,
"I AM YOUR
DAUGHTER..."



HAHAHAHA! YES!!
LOOK AT HER, O'
GREAT MASTER!!!



"...YOUR
MOST
IMPORTANT
PIECE OF
WORK!!!"



*Y...YOU'RE...
THAT...
PAINTING...*



LET US HELP
CURE THE
BRAIN THAT
BECAME DEAD
TO YOUR
DAUGHTER.

YES...
IT'S YOUR
DAUGHTER,
MASTER
PAINTER.



H...HEY...

WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING?!!!



HEY!!!!!!!!!!!!



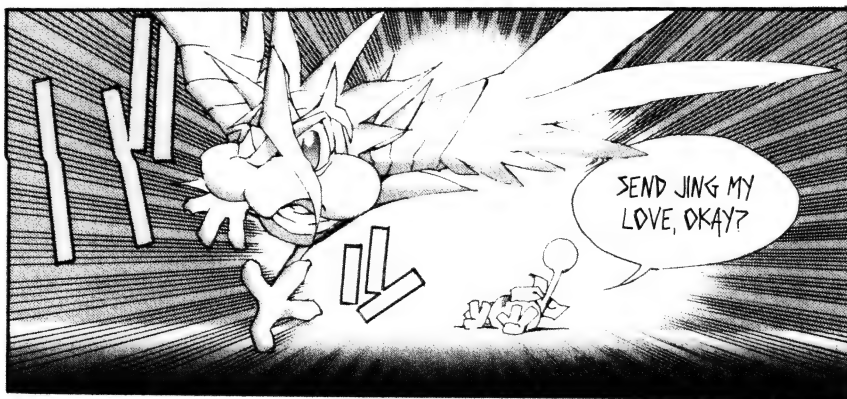
SLIDE

KISS ME, YOU
FOOL!

THIS ISN'T BY
ANY CHANCE...A
FAREWELL KISS...
IS IT...?

WHA-WHA-
WHA?!
WHAT A
THING TO
SAY AT A
TIME LIKE
THIS, YOU
LECHEROUS
BIRD!!! DO
YOU HAVE
ANY IDEA--

I'M SAYING
PUCKER UP,
SWEETIE!!!!!!





I FEEL
FUNNY...

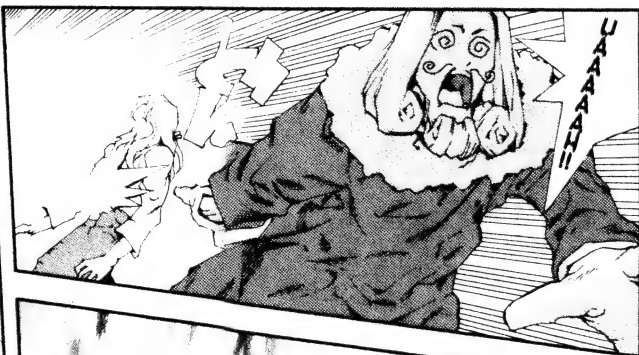
AH...I
ACCEPT THIS
GRATEFULLY,
KIR.





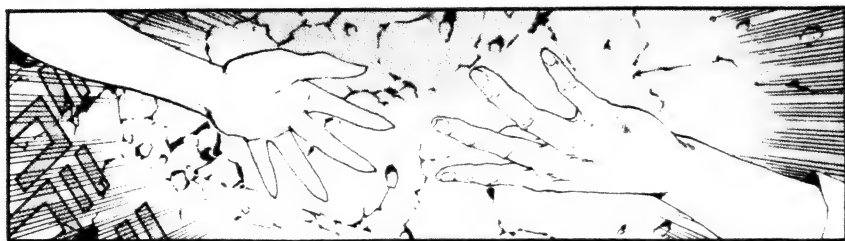


D-DAD!!!



OH...FINO...
FINO.









HE
JUST SET
OUT ON
ANOTHER
JOURNEY.



DAD!
DAD!!

NO!!
DAD'S
STILL--!!!

FINO! YOUR
FATHER
IS STILL
ALIVE...!



I HAVE A FEELING
THAT NEXT TIME
YOU MEET, HE'LL BE
JUST A LITTLE BIT
AHEAD OF YOU.



DAD' JUST SET
OUT ON ANOTHER
JOURNEY... THAT'S
WHAT JING SAID.



I DIGESTED
THOSE WORDS
MANY TIMES
OVER... MANY,
MANY TIMES... AS
I ROCKED BACK
AND FORTH IN
THE SLEIGH.



WE RODE
ON FOR MANY
HOURS... UNTIL,
EVENTUALLY,
I WAS ABLE
TO SEE THE
TOWERS OF
POMPIER.

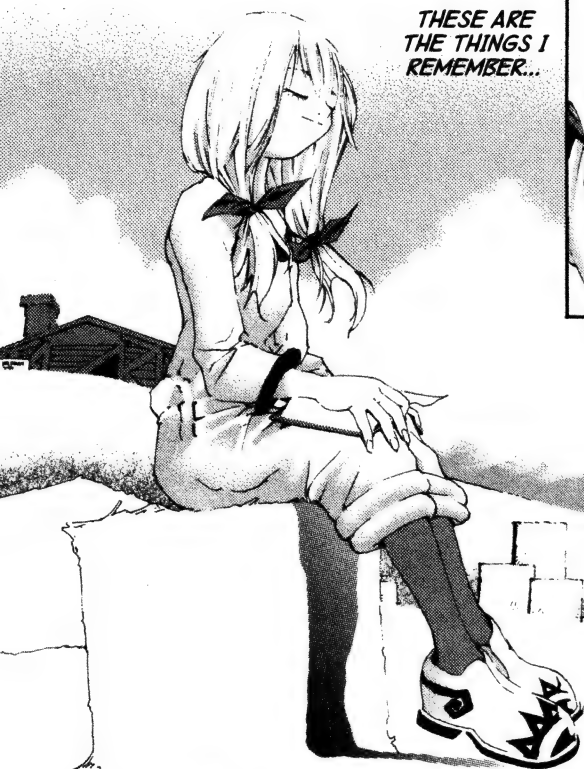


BUT THEY
WERE ALL
COVERED IN
SNOW... SNOW
I KEPT
NEVER SEEN
BEFORE.

COLOR TOWN
HAD LOST ALL
ITS COLOR...

...IT WAS AS
IF THE ENTIRE
TOWN WAS IN
MOURNING.



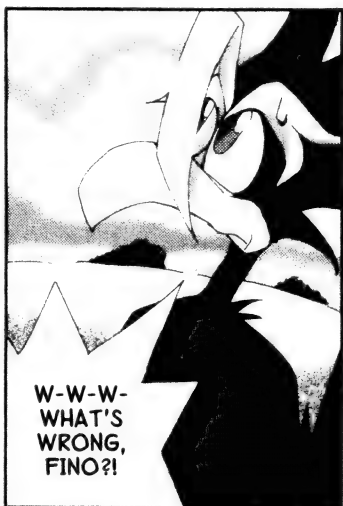


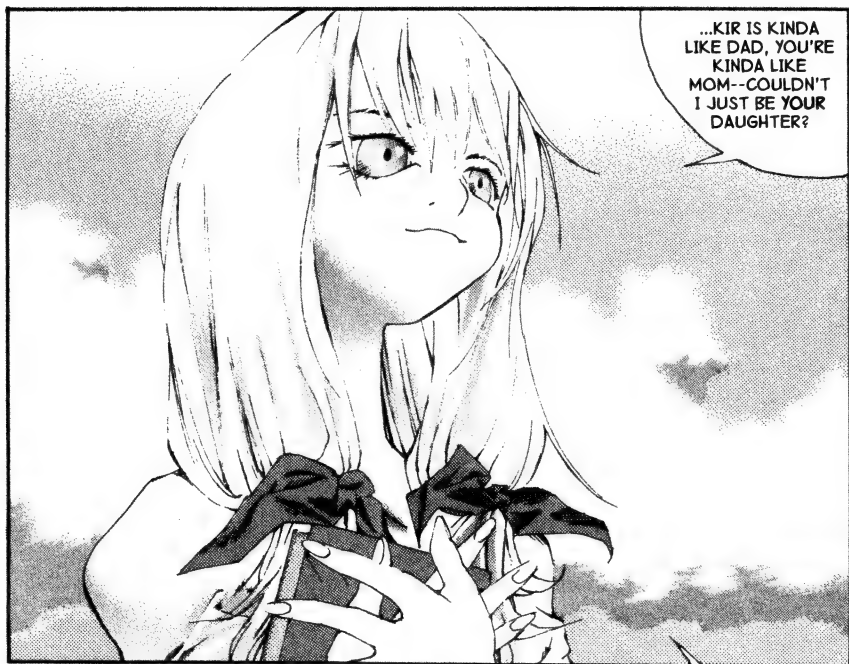
THESE ARE
THE THINGS I
REMEMBER...



...BUT I WONDER...
WHERE ON EARTH ARE
JING AND KIR NOW...?
- SEPTEMBER,
AT THE FARM



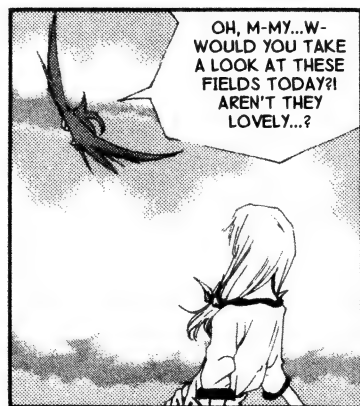




...KIR IS KINDA
LIKE DAD, YOU'RE
KINDA LIKE
MOM--COULDN'T
I JUST BE YOUR
DAUGHTER?



NO--I'VE DECIDED!
I DO WANT TO BE
YOUR GUYS' DAUGHTER
ONE DAY!



OH, M-MY...W-
WOULD YOU TAKE
A LOOK AT THESE
FIELDS TODAY?!
AREN'T THEY
LOVELY...?



WHAT DO YOU
SAY? DON'T YOU
AGREE?!

WH...
WHAT ARE
YOU
SAYING?!!

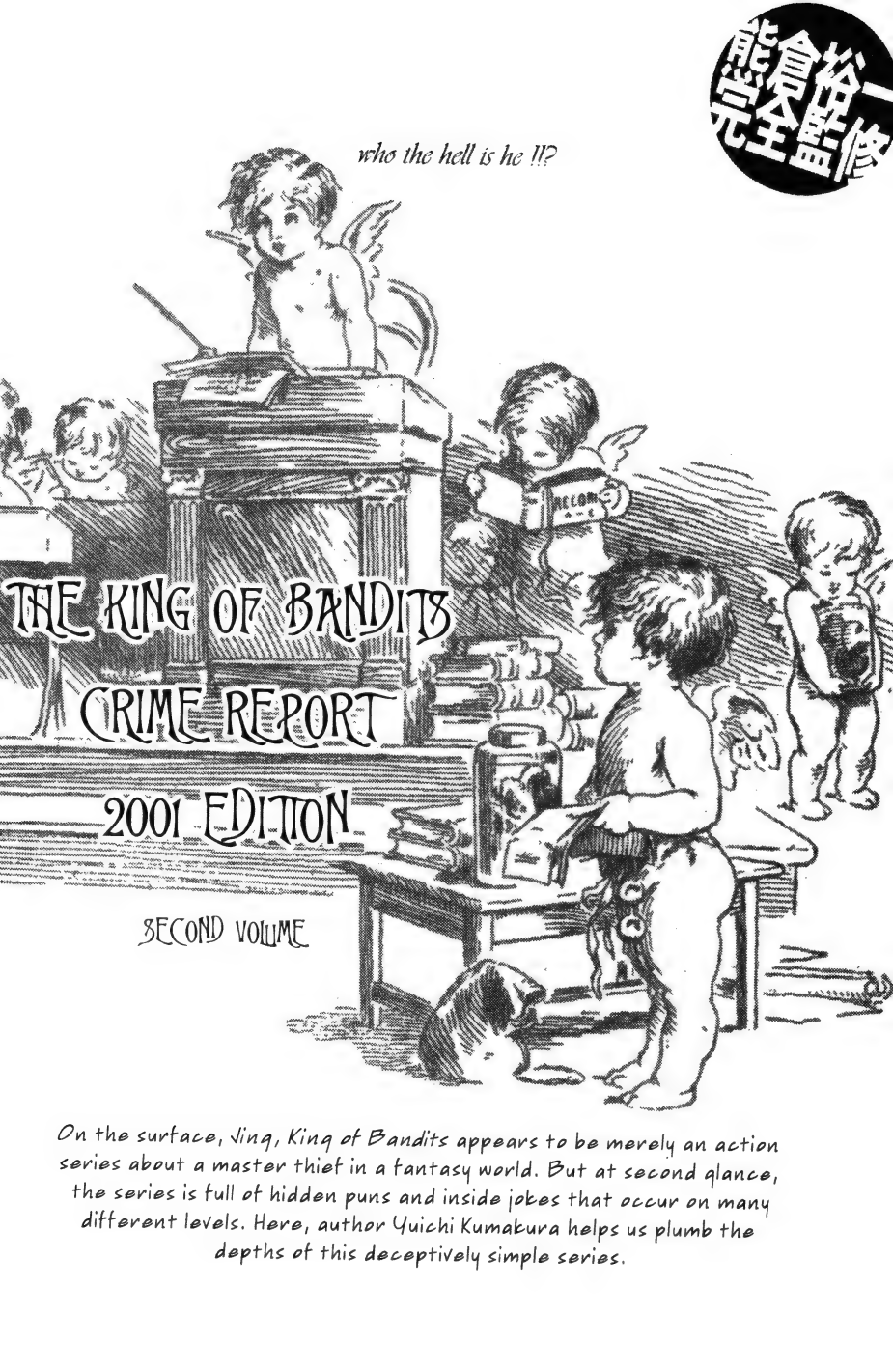
LIKE A PICTURE
DRAWN BY NATURE ON
A CANVAS OF PURE,
BLUE SKY...

...IT FEELS SO
GOOD.

Look for Jing's adventures to begin anew
in *Jing, King of Bandits - Twilight Tales!*

能倉裕一
元全監修

who the hell is he !!?



THE KING OF BANDITS CRIME REPORT

2001 EDITION

SECOND VOLUME

On the surface, *Jing, King of Bandits* appears to be merely an action series about a master thief in a fantasy world. But at second glance, the series is full of hidden puns and inside jokes that occur on many different levels. Here, author Yuichi Kumakura helps us plumb the depths of this deceptively simple series.

c h a r a c t e r s

Mara Suki-No [Mara Schino]

The boss of Seventh Heaven's name comes from a colorless liqueur reputedly made with rare Marasca cherries. When Jing escapes from prison, the figure of Maraschino, channeling the remains of his rage into complete insanity, is reminiscent of the aforementioned "La Vita di Benvenuto Cellini Fiorentino."

Medarudo Shishaku [Medardo]

Not the name of an alcoholic beverage, but a reference to an Italo Calvino book called "Il Visconte Dimezzato," the main character of which is Medardo. It is expected that this story, which follows the life of a man mysteriously split in two by a shell during wartime, is currently being perused with great interest by Jing fans. (Akifumi Company Publications)

Bararaika [Balalaika]

Add white curacao and lemon to vodka, shake it, and voila, you have Balalaika. This stage for "Amarcord" is a charming town with rows of Russian-style minarets--appropriately enough, as balalaika is also the name of a typical Russian stringed instrument. You can see Russian words--as well as avant-garde design work from Russia--everywhere in the Kumakura world.

Romu [Romme]

"Apple" in French (can also mean "potato").

Minto [Mint]

Here, Mint can be interpreted as mint flavoring. This would be closest to peppermint (hakka) in Japan.

Kuyro-Bu [Clove]

A spice, called chouji in Japan. Along with the last two mentioned above, Clove completes the "three bad boys/three strike-outs." Come to think of it, did you notice something of a baseball motif throughout this episode?

Kashisu [Cassis]

Cassis sounds better than "black gooseberry," doesn't it? This character from "Amarcord," along with the above-mentioned "strikeouts," is designated with the name of a raw material used in alcohol and cocktails. This is to imply that they are still children, and therefore underage [alcohol = adult].

Posati-No [Postino]

It is not touched upon in this episode, but the oniisan who delivers the gun to Jing is popularly known as Postino (see JING, KING OF BANDITS--Twilight Tales, bottle 1). This is the Italian name for "postman." There was also a movie in 1995 called "Il Postino," in which a secluded poet wrote exchanges of the heart for the postman working on his island. Worth a look.

Putao [Putao]

An ill-natured detective who bites Jing's head off with questioning. It is pronounced putaochuu, from the Chinese putaojiu. Speaking of which, his Chinese-style outfit, with the hairstyle, reminds me of a Qing dynasty pigtail. This man comes off as shrewd, even at the end of the Game Boy edition. If you are a fan, by all means, see for yourself.

Zaza [Zaza]

Add dubonnet and angostura bitters to dry gin, stir, and voila, you have Zaza. The panorama of Zaza that appears at the beginning of this story stemmed from a piece of work named "Venezia Senz'Acqua" by Clerici, a 20th-century Italian artist. Would you be satisfied to know that Zaza, assuming it is a city on the sea, is surrounded by desert? I wonder...

DuBone [DuBonnet]

A flavored wine prepared by garnishing wine plus distilled alcohol with Chinese tree bark, among other things. The mask that Countess Dubonnet wears was originally inspired by Japan's Noh masks, but it could be said that its true success lies in the fact that it matches the look of the houses and shops of Zaza, making you think more of Venice--a style entirely characteristic of Yuichi Kumakura.



Sutea [Stir]

From the action "to stir" (blend with a bar spoon) that has appeared many times in previous recipes. It might be said that the name characterizes her wonderfully as someone who "stirs up" the town of Zaza. She embodies stout-heartedness and gallantry-- and is, appropriately, the most popular "Jing girl."

Remon [Lemon]

Stir's younger brother. Since he died without ever having grown up, it looks like he was named for a fruit that never got to be an alcohol. Incidentally, Vodka's son, who appears in the Game Boy edition, is also named Lemon, but there is no special relation between the two. It is a name like "Tarou" for sure, you know.

Kisu Kyoudai [Ice Bros]

Three feared, cold-hearted brothers. Cube is cubed ice, Crush is crushed ice...but the very last one, Baffle, means, "to make bewildered/frustrated," so it is gibberish if you link it with ice. To that extent, you could interpret it as meaning the brothers' entire existence is incomprehensible, since their true nature is not actually human.

Angosuchura [Angostura]

Two men, young and old, with the same name-- Angostura, a bitter-tasting alcohol created in Venezuela, South America. This is something that happens a great deal in the West--the Young Angostura inherited his grandfather's name. In other words, it is like saying Louie the 13th or 14th. This family, for generations, has managed the protection of the Dubonnet family.

Ginjou [Ginjo]

Ginjou is a favorite fruity alcohol from Japan, made with more than 40% polished rice. The deadly technique of this vagabond warrior, who was aloof from the trivialities of the world, was called "wolf claw!!" If you translate it, it's "okuri ookami"--in other words, a man who commits evil by pretending to send a drunken girl home. What an insulting name!!!

Danda [Dunder]

Refers to the dregs that remain when rum alcohol is distilled. No wonder this bullfighter/lady-killer had such an unexpectedly dull name. His surname, Martinique, comes from the Martinique Islands of the Carribean Sea, an area that produces rum.

Aviesho [Aviation]

Aviation translates as "hikou" in Japanese. You could say the name of the town foreshadows the launch of Jinq's adventure, when he solves the puzzle in the temple of light and soars into the sky on the legendary giant fish. Aviation is also a cocktail that adds lemon juice and other ingredients to a dry gin base.

Faji-Ne-buru [Fuzzy Navel]

Fuzzy Navel is a stirred drink that combines orange juice with peach liqueur. The "fuzz" in FUZZY refers to the fine, light hairs on the surface of peaches and similar fruits. But the word "fuzzy" also holds a big connotation in Japanese, as in "yuragi no aru." (Editor's note: long ago, the term "fuzzy" came to be a widely-used way to indicate electric products in Japan.) Although yuragi heso (= navel) is revealed as an untrodden plateau close to neither heaven nor earth, the name I gave it fits just right.

Kirasha [Kirsche]

Kirsche is a cherry liqueur made in Switzerland. It is a fairly strong alcohol, contrary to the image it evokes of a cute cherry...but I have a hunch that it strangely suits our strong-to-the-core kitty-chan character.

Araku [Arrack, Arak]

In a den of heathens, Arak is aware of the corruption within. His name comes from an alcohol, arrack, distilled from the dates that overwhelm the near and middle east. It has an appropriate ring for the person in charge of Fuzzy Navel, and contributes to an atmosphere that has no nationality of its own, but is roughly based on Asia.

Resaka [Pesca]

Pesca is Italian for "peach." It comes from the indispensable peach liqueur (*momo no osake*) used in a Fuzzy Navel. By the way, the "qigantessa" in the cloud sculpture, *Pesca Qigantessa*, means "qigantic." So if you translate the entire name into English, you get "giant peach"--just like the one in Tim Burton's animated masterpiece. Although this peach not only transports children to a new world...it takes them to Hell...

Ponpie [Pompier]

A cocktail that adds *creme de cassis* and soda water to vermouth. In French it means "fireman," and for that reason, the "painter's truck" that appears at the beginning of this story looks just like a fire truck. Also, this fire truck is used completely different from its original inspiration, which you may recognize from Francois Truffaut's Sci-Fi movie, "Fahrenheit 451."

Fino [Fino]

A variety of sherry whose light color is its chief characteristic. Fino's surname, *Quart*, is an indication of capacity based on the "ounce method" of weights and measures, which is different from the metric system. In America, 1 quart = 946 ml.

Dorambui [Drambuie]

The first English-produced liqueur. It combines herbs and other ingredients, using whiskey as it's base. Our character of the same name may look like a trump king, but he is in fact only the president-san of mere abacuses.

Shupe-tore-ze [Spätlese]

A sweet, strong German white wine that uses late-harvested, heated grapes. Although the chameleon doctor of our story might be better described as "rotting" than "ripened"...

Karimazonkingu [Crimson King]

Pompier's underground crimson lake. The name comes from the 1969 debut album of an English rock band. The record, "Crimson King's Palace," was a monumental work that opened up a new art form called progressive rock (short form, prog rock). Furthermore, the band's name, King Crimson, became the name of Color City's first enterprise, which Drambuie supervises.

Vin [Vin]

"Vin," which means wine in extremely simple French, became the legendary painter's name. And "Le Chef-d'œuvre Inconnu" was his posthumous work--but did you know that there is a short novel with the same name by France's literary master, Balzac?

It is the story of a painter who ruined himself through his admiration of the arts, just like Fino's father!!!

Well, now. From here on out, we are not going to be concerned with character names, but will be searching every corner of every panel for meanings and homages hidden within the words and pictures.

- Volume 1 -

City of Thieves

As I touched on in the initial set-up collection of the first volume, the City of Thieves was drawn as an homage to the Tower of Babel. According to the Old Testament, there was only one universal language until the wrath of God came down on this tower. In other words, there were no barriers or national borders between the people before that. But it may also be said that the City of Thieves is a place where people from every conceivable race and country gather for one common purpose--crime is the only true equalizer...

Anchor Of The Phantom Ship

In the Game Boy edition, the anchor combination that attacks Jing and the others before they enter the casino has an actual name. The one who holds the chains on top is called Pantaqurel, and the anchor's main body is called Gargantua. These names come from the works "Pantaqurel" and "Gargantua," magnificently exaggerated stories by Francois Rabelais, a giant of the French Renaissance.

In The Nick Of Time?!!

A certain black-mustached man comes to pick a fight with Jing and the gang while they are making a killing in the casino. This man's outfit, if you look closely, is an homage to the barrels Mario jumped over in "Donkey Kong."



Clockwork Grape

What should come to your mind immediately is the aforementioned "Clockwork Orange." This masterpiece depicted, with cynical and stylish imagery, the "reverse rectification" of a young person who spent all his time on violence and sex.

Door That Tells Time

The entrance to the city of Adonis, guarded by the gear gate watchers. The source of the gigantic clock was the astrological clock of the city government office in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. It's a work of art by which people can enjoy the greeting of Christ's twelve disciples, along with a show of puppets that announce the time.

- Volume 2 -

A Big Mac is Fine, But...

The dream Kir had of the mustached old man, having barely escaped from Mastergear. A reference to that heroic fast food chain founder, the Colonel, judging from Kir's testimony that he would have been "fried" with potatoes!!!

Country of the World of the Dead=Neverland

The name of the country where the eternal child Peter Pan and his friends lived. The motif of James Barrie's original work, "Peter Pan," is inlaid everywhere in the "Time City" book. For example...

Captain

The "Captain" exchanged one hand, which was eaten by a crocodile (Clockodial), for a hook (key). A reference to Peter Pan's old enemy, Captain Hook himself. Furthermore...

Cock-A-Doodle Doooo

This war cry, in reference to Jing's seeing the morning sun when he enters the grapes tower, is also Peter Pan's favorite phrase.

"A Graveyard is the Most Economical Place to Stay"

This line, which the Captain says to Jing and the gang underground, is borrowed from Langston Hughes, an African-American black poet. Hughes crystallized the souls of black people, who went on living reassuringly even while suffering discrimination, in the form of his poems.

Sour Grapes...

Aesop's famous words, which everyone has heard at one time or another. It is the story of a fox who, when unable to eat some grapes growing in a high, unreachable place, made the excuse that, "Those grapes were sour anyway." Both the finest of grapes and the supremacy of freedom were nothing but objects of intense jealousy to the cold-hearted female fox in our story!!!

Distortion

A popular name for the harvesters who flew around the big temple that produced the clockwork grapes. Distortion is a sound effect that warps the sound of an electric guitar on purpose. These harvesters probably got their name from the scythes that they held, which were shaped like electric guitars. (see Game Boy edition).

13th Hour

The spacious room where Jing and Vins Mousseux unfolded their final desperate struggle was furnished with carved statues representing the 12 constellations, in a shape that mirrored the 12 hours of a clock...but there was one extra figure. And so, Vin Mousseux related "not being part of this world" to the 13th Hour figure. Thirteen is a numeral that should be evaded, as far as most Christians are concerned. Its existence brings death to mind. The 13th figure, which held a heart-shaped lamp as if to symbolize human life, blocked Jing and the gang's escape route, tailing them even after Vins Mousseux was defeated!

Material from the "Animal Bombs, Porveras" book:

Walt's Family?!

Much hidden art was concealed in the spread pages immediately after Jing set out on his trip with the Porvera. In the center of the picture was the "world's first famous mouse," and in the rocky mountain to the right were the spitting images of objects from "Le Voyage dans la lune," a work of Melies, a hero from the birth of cinema.



Why Spanish...

Necessary tools as seen in western movies can be seen in great numbers in the "Porvora" book, including a lot of Spanish vocabulary (since many western movies take place along the Mexican state border, Spanish expressions are often utilized). Even "Porvora" is Spanish. And "nino," used by Izarra to threaten Jinq, means "baby." The "signore" of Signore Goblet is kind of like that, too.

- Volume 3 -

"Le Salaire de la Peur"

The final conception of this episode stemmed, no doubt, from the 1952 French movie masterpiece, *Le Salaire de la Peur*. The story of men who were unable to make a living, transporting great quantities of nitro-glycerin--only in preparation for their eventual deaths--was also a masterpiece of the famous Yves Montand, a chanson singer.

"Le Petit Prince"

We could also mention the motif of "Le Petit Prince," a masterpiece by French author Saint-Exupery, as another factor that made this episode rich and deep. Follow the reading carefully--in each episode different set-ups blend into the expressions, which invoke very deep impressions. For example, phrases like Goblet's "Baobab" mansion and "the most precious things aren't always visible to the naked eye" --there are too many to mention them all. But the most effective quote would be the last line of the "Porvora" book...

"The land of tears is strange country indeed...isn't it, Izarra...?"

While it came from the original text of *Le Petit Prince*, it is expected that many fans were deeply touched by this line, in which the nuance was subtly shifted.

By the way, the image of Izarra taking her shower in Sunqria could almost double as the rose in the glass bin, which also appears in the original text.

Pale Rider

The scene of the Sungria mining location, where Kir's comrades are being worked so hard, looks a lot like the gold mine that appears in "Pale Rider," a 1985 film by director Clint Eastwood.

The Great Dictator

At one point, Goblet toys with a balloon that imitates the star gem. There is an identical scene in the 1940 Charlie Chaplin film "The Great Dictator."

Bateau Ivre

If we were to translate into Japanese the words of the boat's sail (with the miserable skeleton as its mast), it would be "yoidore tune." This is representative of the French poet Rimbaud. In this work, one extremely drunken ship goes forth to the middle of a dying world--similar to the tone of the "Reviver" book. Also in "Reviver," vestiges of the poems Verlaine wrote to his friend and lover, Rimbaud, peep out here and there.

Life And Death On Reverse Sides Of A Coin...

The town of Reviver, where Jing and the gang ended up. This island's story follows the archetype of "Die Toteninsel," or "The Island of Death," by Arnold Böcklin, a Swiss-born symbolic painter. An ironic reference, associating this town of eternal life with the island of death.

Odradek

Odradek, a "diminutive helper" who appears as a "flat, star-shaped spool of thread" at unexpected times and places and disappears quickly, first appeared in "Die Sorge des Hausvaters," a short story by Czech writer Franz Kafka. In the last part of that short story, a mysterious creature is mentioned...

"He does no harm to anyone that one can see; but the idea that he is likely to survive me I find almost painful."

Could it not be said that this might be the immortal king's feelings towards Vermouth...?



Church Of "The Second Puzzle"

*It seems there is a church in Poland, one whose walls
is made entirely of human bones.*

- Volume 4 -

Eternal Soup

Something called "Eternal Soup" appears in a famous episode of "Der Zauberberg," a monumental work by a monumental German author, Thomas Mann. He writes about how soup is served in the sanitarium, as though stamped with a daily seal, isolated from the normal flow of time--and, of course, it is not liquid and the like within it.

Kots And Grasshoppers?!

The trembling violin player who makes excuse after excuse in the convey bus at the beginning of the "Seventh Heaven" book. It looks like he committed a crime, thinking ill of someone who had saved up some money, but...uhn? Wait--a guy who plays nothing but music and a guy who is hoarding money, eh...? Somehow or other, they remind me of an old parable...

This Mosquito Grade...

A rank in heavy and welter-weight boxing--but what Maraschino refers to is a "mosquito coil," an insecticide that the above violin player will ingest and die.

Le Cerveau Noir De Piranesi

The elegant, mazelike interior design of the prison is a huge reference to the of a prison drawn by Piranesi, an 18th century Italian engraver. He was a different yet capable artist who drew from a unique perspective, excluding any emotional feelings.

Escape From Alcatraz

There is a 1979 Don Siegel-directed work, "Escape From Alcatraz," starring Clint Eastwood. Speaking of which, the name of the horned rat the old prisoner was feeding was something like
Clint...

A Straight Line to Hell

The bizarre aperture that announces "The only exit is here," right before the appearance of Benedictine, borrows the archetype of Prince Orsini's "Park of the Monsters" in Bomarzo, at the center of Italy. Somehow, this park has within it a reproduction of the gateway to Hell itself.

Dodo

Pulling the train that Jing's party boarded within the prison of dreams was an illusionary, flightless bird, the Dodo. If you're wondering why this rare bird, which went extinct from being preyed on by humans and animals because it could not fly, appears here, you should probably recall the fact that this prison of dreams was built from feelings, which would not necessarily rule out a lost race (ushinawareta shuzoku). After all, the Acacian tribe was also left to the mercy of fate, just like that helpless rare bird.

A Grieving Toy

Campari muttered these words, as though sneering at himself...

"I used a toy called a dream orb."

Speaking of sad toys, "Grieving Toy" is the title of a second anthology of poems by Ishikawa Takuboku, posthumously published in 1912. So many young poets die prematurely...is there some sort of epidemic that causes their hearts to choke?

Amarcord

"Amarcord" was a once-in-a-lifetime movie created in 1974 by Federico Fellini, a famous director who represented Italy. This work depicted dazzling images of Fellini's boyhood on stage in the town of Rimini, Italy, where he grew up. It is said that the title means "I remember" in Rimini dialect. That is why the story of young Jing's own indulgent memory carried that nostalgic word for its title.



It Is Not About a Guy Who Follows After the Fetters

The second half of the episode shows the ruins of what looks like a research laboratory--a mystery that Jing and Kir happen upon. Its peculiar, empty emotion recalls the atmosphere of "Stalker," a 1979 Russian movie. Andrei Tarkovsky, who later defected from Russia, directed this film about scientists who force their way into a prohibited area called the "Zone."

Snow Ridge Splits

The humorous tune everyone sings around the table after the first visit of the Kir-eqq. It appears there is an original joke in this somehow, but whose song it is is unclear. Even this editorial department is considering investigating it further.

- Volume 5 -

A Moveable Feast

This book, "A Moveable Feast Guide," is regarded as an official source of explanation from the outset. I have never heard of a feast that moved, but if you translate the existing work called "A Moveable Feast," the work of one Ernest Hemingway, a writer who represented the "lost generation" of America, it becomes "dou shukusaijitsu." In Hemingway's work, which documents the exciting lifestyles of 1920s Paris (in which he lived) he analyzes the city's festival-like atmosphere:

"If you are lucky enough to have lived in Paris as a young man, then whenever you go for the rest of your life, it stays with you, for Paris is a moveable feast."

Would the book in our story that listed the town of Zaza, as though attempting to recall in us the same kind of deep emotion that Hemingway felt for Paris, be "A Moveable Feast Guide?"

Vintage Smile

"Vintage Smile" refers to the name of the timeframe in which grapes are harvested for wine. Since wine differs completely in quality of harvest from year to year, even if it is the same brand, wines from a year in which quality grapes are harvested are associated with the name of their harvest year and, as such, command a high price in the marketplace. Similarly, the word "vintage" is attached to this mask of utmost quality, which preserves the finest smile.

Warrior Of The Rising Sun

It is a well-known fact that "Hi Izurutokoro No Tenshi" is a masterpiece manga, in which Yamaqishi Ryouko depicted Shoutoku Taishi in an unprecedented vision. One letter off that title is the name of this fighter, assumed to have come from the Far East, who becomes the center of the "mascorrída" storm. A newspaper caption turns the name into "Rising Son," but this is intentional. Although the original meaning refers to a sunrise, the other meaning connotes that the "son" candidate is rising quickly among the ranks...so, both are implied.

And Now, A Question For The Ages...

Often, in fan letters and the like, we come across questions like, "Does Tamori Wataru-sensei of 'Robotto Ponkottsu,' now appearing serialized (2001 to current) in the monthly publication comic Bonbon, have any relationship with Kumakura-sensei?" We will answer that question here. Yes, there is a relationship. Tamori-sensei was once Kumakura-sensei's assistant. But did you know that Tamori-sensei made a cameo appearance in the "Zaza" book? There was a cash-headed man among the townspeople, who were in an uproar about a sudden tremor under their feet during the confrontation with Baffle as our heroes left the mask cafe. That was him.

Even Stars Sparkle

You'll find that in a lot of Jing's stories, the sun and the moon play an important part. In this "Zaza" book, the Countess is liberated from her reverie of the past upon seeing the brilliance of the morning sun. It is probably not a mistake that this repeated motif brings out emotions of a similar scale in Jing.

- Volume 6 -

Could Be A World Legacy

Aviation's mysterious spectacle, where strange rocks protrude in countless numbers. It is not exactly clear where they begin, but it brings to mind that land of mystery, Cappadocia--a large, picturesque place in Turkey somewhere. It is said that young Christian monks settled there in secret and cultivated their own personal culture on one side of the wastelands, where many strange rocks like these stand close together.



High Praise For Takahata Isao

A giant fish that flew in the sky and was attracted by the light from the temple. However, although Jing saw it, the giant fish took him by force, and one of the kittens looked up into the vexing sky. This image had a source in "Tale of Tales," a work of Russian animation artist Yuri Norstein. In it, a fish, that is being chased escapes to the sky, as a cat looks up and gives a sorrowful cry.

Stray Cats

"Noraneko" in English means STRAY CATS, but it is in close conjunction with an expression frequently used in Christianity, STRAY SHEEP (mayperu kohitsuji). This name, which has a double meaning, was created for the kittens Kirsche leads, likening them to devout sisters who serve God.

Electricity Killed The Cat

These words were written throughout the town, a parody of a saying in English, "CURIOSITY KILLED THE CAT" (koukishin, neko no korosu). Roughly, it means that nothing goes right when you stick your nose into things that aren't your business. But with the change from CURIOSITY to ELECTRICITY, it has come to be a slogan of another kind that expresses the Stray Cats' sense of respect towards electricity.

Let There Be Light

These are famous words from the Old Testament, which tells of the time when God created the world, but the religion that appears within this work has no direct relationship whatsoever with Christianity. Rather, regarding these words as an ignition point, it would be better to think about a new religion that accomplished an original evolution. The Cahier sect is a different denomination from that of Kirsche and the gang--that is, while showing respect to the same thing [God=light], one side assumes light should be distributed to everyone, and the other assumes it should be monopolized.

"Two Powers Dominate Space, Light And Gravity"

These words were spoken like an incantation by the two Cahier sect believers who targeted the lives of Jing and the gang as they arrived in Fuzzy Navel. In fact, these are the words of an actual philosopher, Simone Weil, a female thinker from France. There is one passage within her masterpiece, "La Pesanteur et la Grace," which collected these words. Perhaps the believers of the Cahier sect chose to bend and interpret these words, which originally held a similar sentiment to the above-mentioned "Let There Be Light," as an excuse to toy with the lives of heretics.

Solid Gold Batteries

I have never heard of any actual instances of mercury batteries turning into solid gold batteries. However, in the Jing world, it is as if a technique of producing electricity from gold really does exist. It certainly gives the impression of being the highest grade dry cell battery, but it appears that peoples' chief interest is in the value of the gold itself, and that they are being exchanged solely as gambling chips.

Jing on Air

ON AIR is an expression used in radio and television broadcasts, but this story, borrowing only the nuance of the words, tried to leave the impression of Jing actually riding an electro-magnetic wave and dancing into the air.

- Volume 7 -

Tattooed Heart

One could say that this episode's subtitle, "Tattooed Heart," was an outstanding title that splendidly expressed the work's theme, but it originally came from an album title of Aaron Neville, an African-American musician. Rather, it may be said that this subtitle existed before the contents of the story were established. Sources for the idea were, in fact, various.

Conceal the Head...

There is a work of reportage called "The Island of Sakhalin" by Anton Chekhov, a Russian author. Within it is a passage telling of a bird on death's door that had its feathers plucked before taking its flight from life. It is as though Kir's desperate infiltration campaign was somehow or another inspired by this anecdote.

Color City

There is a song with the name "Color City" on Oonuki Taeko's album, *Cliche*. Its pop music gave the impression of regarding colorful images as having a rhythmical melody all their own.

Burning House Of Ice River

The image of a burning house is sometimes used as a Buddhist symbol for setting ablaze the world of worldly desire and suffering. But to the house's owner, Quart, whose personal ideals could not be achieved in this world, it symbolized that the living world was equivalent to his own personal "Hell."

Gobanme No Youso=Fifth Element

Obviously, director Luc Besson's super epic sci-fi film.

It's Like Having Drawn the Picture Completely..

All sorts of artist's supplies were incorporated into the backgrounds and props, which was appropriate for the subject matter in the "Color City" book. The factory where Jinq & Fino took refuge used paintbrushes as smokestacks. And the armed group that chased after Fino carried compass-type machine guns.

Director David Lean's Work

There is a beautiful sequence from "Doctor Zhivago," a 1965 English film, in which two lovers are living in a deserted house that appears to be decorated in snow and ice. Whether or not it was a direct reference is unknown...but does this image not give an impression similar to the Quart mansion, where the ice river was hidden?

Memento Mori

It is assumed that humans instinctively avoid death, and form all kinds of theories about it with the secret wish of concealing its deeper meaning. It can probably be said, then, that the words memento mori have always managed to shake up mankind's concealed handiwork, while continuing to provide it an opportunity to look its inevitable fate in the face. In Latin, the words mean, "Do not forget death." This expression gave a voice to humanity's sense of powerlessness long before the affluence of plague and war that followed the Middle Ages. It not only addressed the age-old question, "Can death and humanity be reconciled?" but also raised the important question, "Must we go?"

It goes without saying that the "Town of Eternal Life, Reviver" book took a cold, hard look at death. Jing himself is somewhat based in death, since his mother, whom he regards as his heart's guide, is already dead. Perhaps this unspeakable grief has defined him more than anyone knows.



TWILIGHT TALES

王ドロボウJING

KING OF BANDITS

The last chapter has closed on Jing: King of Bandits, but don't feel blue—Jing and Kir will return in *Jing: Twilight Tales*, a new series coming soon that is already leaving fans green with envy! Get ready to take fresh, fantastical, and far-out journeys with Jing and his feisty, feathered friend Kir! *Twilight Tales* is an awesome new series with a darker, more sophisticated take on our heroes!

When Jing sets his sights on a valuable jewel in the coffin of a notorious mafia boss, is he really playing with fire? Will Jing get away with it all, or does *la cosa nostra's* reach extend beyond the grave?



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The color of happiness
Has always been rose...
But the colors of unhappiness
Are infinite...

(A Pompier proverb)



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